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Daily Report
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FBIS-LAT-90-241 *14 December 1990*

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Gaviria Addresses Regional Issues in La Paz

PY1312214390 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Nov 90 p 7

[Excerpts] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria has stressed that the Andean Pact member countries have until 31 March 1991 to comply with previous integration agreements, thereby clearing the way for the consolidation of free trade and the operation of a common market for their economic development.

During a news conference, the 47-year-old chief of state referred to the integration efforts, the Persian Gulf conflict, drug trafficking, and the Bush initiative, and he outlined his policies in those areas. [passage omitted]

President Gaviria said that "Colombia views with interest President Bush's Americas Initiative, and it hopes that all Andean Pact countries can advance toward free trade with the United States."

He also maintained that there is the intention to achieve an agreement of this type with Mexico, Chile, and of course with the countries south of Mexico [Mexico sur]. He stated that a free trade accord could be the main instrument with which Latin American peoples can advance from an economic point of view.

"The limitations of our markets is evident; it is evident that new economic policies are being implemented in all Latin American countries, and that basically the welfare of our peoples depend on the practicality of these projects," he stressed. [passage omitted]

Gaviria indicated that the interdiction solution that is being applied in Colombia should be used in Bolivia and Peru for example, because the problems are different.

He explained that while Colombia is a country dedicated mainly to drug trafficking, the other countries are producers of the raw material (coca leaves).

The president indicated that his country adopted its own decisions because groups of drug traffickers have tried to interfere with democracy, and because of the high number of candidates to the presidency and judgeships as well as judges that have been murdered.

"We must have and we want alternative development," he emphasized when indicating that the EEC supports the idea of alternative development.

He expressed confidence that one day the United States will also take steps to permit the implementation of alternative development, which, in the case of Colombia, has a lot to do with "compensating us for the immense costs which we have incurred and which we believe amount to $1 million a year."

He expressed understanding for the Bolivian way of doing things; he indicated this means substituting production, and basically changing one economic system for another. [passage omitted]

Gaviria indicated that the democratization of Cuba and the winds of glasnost and perestroyka could allow for Latin America's reconciliation with the whole inter-American system.

"We want respect for the self-determination of peoples, but one day we would also like to see Cuba fully reinserted into to the inter-American system," he said.

This was how he answered a journalist's question on U.S. actions to smother Cuba's economy.

ALDHU Conference Debates Future Tasks

PY1412002090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0759 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] La Paz, 13 Dec (EFE)—The Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU) reiterated its will last night to contribute to the consolidation of peace and democracy in the continent and to the promotion of measures to overcome the serious problems and threats that loom on the horizon for the 1990's.

One of the conclusions reached by the ALDHU is that "the unification of the economic and political efforts by our countries is an essential precondition for the preservation of peace and justice and the promotion of growth in the region."

The ALDHU conference, which was entitled "Peace as an Instrument for Democracy and Development of the People," analyzed several documents on the risks to peace and democracy in the continent. The conference also studied the guidelines for action to be followed by the ALDHU during this decade.

"Latin America is living under the permanent threat of war, and the main reason for this is the incorrect U.S. policy in this hemisphere," says one of the conference documents, which recommends that the region call upon the United States to construct a "new type of relations based on respect and equality."

The document also mentions the institutional crisis that has been caused by politicians' inability to find solutions to pressing problems and the lack of credibility in the role of the state, which is marked by inefficiency, bureaucracy, "deception, and frequently corruption." This lack of credibility should be reversed through reforms to make states efficient.

The document adds that "populism and authoritarianism are ghosts that have jeopardized the stability of the democratic system; whatever their proposals are, they affect the consolidation process."

It goes on to say that drug trafficking, terrorism, and the creation of private police organizations in the region are factors jeopardizing peace and the stability of democracy. The document questions the costly strategy of military repression sponsored by the United States.

Over the next few years, the ALDHU has tasked itself with identifying the real causes of poverty in the region. The solution to this problem, the organization claims, should be based on the formulation of development policies that support the sectors that have been most affected by the violence of the crisis and on the redistribution of income.

There were some moments of tension at the ALDHU meeting, especially when Bolivian organizations demanded specific statements against human rights violations by the government of Jaime Paz Zamora—which sponsored the meeting—in light of operations to deal with a terrorist incident several days ago.

During a ceremony to award the "Msgr. Leonidas Proano" prizes on 11 December, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said: "Bolivian democracy is not ready to be confronted with violence [as received], and those who want to attack it with violence will be repressed just as strongly."

President Paz Zamora, who was visibly annoyed, said in his speech that "genuine democrats have to play by the rules of the game and live with citizens who profit by those rules but are ready to stab democracy." He was alluding to the speaker who took the floor before him.

Cuba

ANAP Plenum Ends With Call for Discipline

FL1412015090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The eighth national plenary session of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] ended this afternoon with a final declaration exhorting farmers to overcome difficulties and continue their support for the country's food program.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] As never before, the present moment demands that each of us be ruled above all by labor and social discipline and the constant desire to give everything, no matter where we find ourselves, without skimping efforts or sacrifices. The food program must go forward with concrete results that range from an efficient sugar harvest to reaping all the agricultural products we can wrest from the land. [end recording]

During the plenary session, which was held in the Niceto Perez ANAP Cadres School in Guira de Melena, the main report, documents on the vanguard movement, [words indistinct] cooperativization were approved. It was reported that beginning in January, cooperative members will express their readiness to forgo the products they receive from the state and that they can harvest from their land, thus contributing to higher production for the populace.

Court Sentences Nine for Queue Speculation

FL1412013590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Municipal People's Tribunal of Centro Habana has punished nine citizens for the illegal sale of favorable places [preturnos] in lines at stores in the capital city's commercial network. Mercedes Cristina Lopez was sentenced to nine months of limited freedom and a fine of 100 pesos. Lucia Aldama la Guardia received a fine of 300 pesos, and Paula Mesa Aldama and Juan Victorino Figueroa [words indistinct].

Figueroa was found guilty of resisting arrest and illegal possession of a weapon, a knife. They all resided in Centro Habana and operated as professional line-standers in the Yumuri store.

In addition, Marilyn Bodi was fined 300 pesos and sentenced to six months of correctional labor, along with [name indistinct]. Both were professional line-standers who resided in Habana Vieja [words indistinct].

Also among those punished for the illegal sale of places in line were Mireya Marina Cuesta [passage indistinct].

The president of the tribunal [name indistinct] said that forces of internal order and the organs of justice will take severe action against those who engage in this activity, classified as a crime in the Criminal Code. According to their degree of involvement, several citizens have been either fined or given warnings. The nine line-standers who were penalized [words indistinct] the money obtained from the sale of positions, lists, and other evidence.

Torres Aguirre said that as long as proper monitoring is not conducted, the so-called professional line-standers will continue to act with impunity. That is why, he said, we are proposing an analysis of the status of stores [words indistinct].

* Unauthorized Use of State Vehicles Criticized

91P40069A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 12 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] There can be no doubt that the measures established by various legal bodies to regulate the use of state vehicles have considerably reduced the growing tendency, evident a few years ago, toward improper use of these vehicles. In truth, some improper uses of state vehicles—such as going to beaches, centers of nighttime entertainment, and other recreational areas—which justifiably irritated the population, have practically disappeared.

Nevertheless, other types of violations, far from diminishing, have increased and caused irritation. This applies not only to the use of red-plated vehicles—cars, jeeps—but to blue-plated vehicles as well: buses, trucks, vans, motorcycles.

Early in the morning and after 5:00 p.m. on workdays, and at all hours of the day on Saturdays and Sundays, one very frequently sees many vehicles, especially cars with special permits on their windshields, carrying people—friends, family members—though neither the driver nor the passengers are engaged in official business.

There are also cases where trucks, buses, and other vehicles are parked in front of homes during work hours for the purpose of attending to personal business. Drivers have also been observed who, when going to a movie theater or another location, will park a state vehicle a few blocks from their destination in order to conceal their misdeed.

Another example of a violation is the transfer of state vehicles—red-and blue-plated—to schools in the countryside. We have very recent examples of this impropriety.

In an operation carried out by inspectors of the National Center for Inspection of State Vehicles on three Sundays (7, 14, and 21 October) 65 state vehicles were found at schools and camps located in Havana.

Those organizations, enterprises and entities which have vehicles under their authorization need to exercise control over their equipment and the purposes for which it is used, and they need to demand strict compliance with decree 148.

Regarding the use of state vehicles, the prevailing attitude must be that they are solely and exclusively for official business.

According to current guidelines, any state vehicle may be used day or night, Monday through Sunday, in the course of production, administrative and service functions. There are no restrictions if, and only if, it is used for official business.

Gas Services Restored in Havana After Breakdown

FL1312132490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Provision of manufactured gas has been restored in the capital. Defects in the Evelio Rodriguez Purvelo Electrical Plant had caused power failures since Tuesday that paralyzed operations at the plant, which supplies gas to almost 120,000 consumers in Havana City.

Power was definitely restored yesterday afternoon, and the plant began to function, pumping gas to the affected areas. Thus, stable service should have been reestablished beginning last night.

Additional Soviets Arrive for Medical Treatment

FL1312174590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1457 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] A group of 35 veterans of the Afghanistan war is now in Cuba. This brings the number of former Soviet fighters who have travelled to Cuba for specialized treatment at the Frank Pais Hospital to 190.

Professor and Doctor Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, accompanied by Orlando Fundora, president of the Cuban Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples' Movement, and Abelardo Ramirez, vice minister of public health, received the group, which is headed by (Ilyeya Untov), secretary of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace.

[Begin recording] [Untov] This is an act of solidarity. We really appreciate this aid, this gesture by the Cuban Government and people as a great assistance to our (?people). All the comrades in this group or who were part of the groups that came in the past, have a very high opinion, not just of the quality of medical treatment, but also of the fact that they have felt the brotherhood of the Cuban people in every area.

[Reporter] Have any of the fighters treated so far recovered?

[Alvarez Cambias] Yes, some more than others. That depended on their individual possibilities, but they have all recovered. There has not been a single case of an individual whose condition has deteriorated, nor have there been any accidents or deaths. They have all improved enormously. Many of them who could not walk are now walking, and some who had serious spinal injuries are also better. Amputees have received prostheses or operations. In general, 100 percent of the cases have recovered totally. They were treated and they improved, and we will continue to work along these lines. [end recording]

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Ends Official Visit

FL1312191590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the Palestinian State and chief of the PLO's Political Department, ended his official visit in our country yesterday. During his stay, the head of Palestine's foreign affairs was decorated with the Solidarity Order by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, with whom he exchanged views on international events.

The Palestine and Cuban delegations, presided over by Foreign Ministers Faruq Qaddumi and Isidoro Malmierca, held [words indistinct] on the Middle East problems. The two parties noted the need for the Nonaligned Movement to actively participate in the solution of international problems in line with the needs of Third World countries.

Nicaraguan Association Urges Bush To End Embargo

FL1312192690 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Friends of Cuba in Nicaragua Association today demanded that U.S. President George Bush end the embargo against Cuba, and decried his intention to intensify the embargo through initiatives such as the so-called Mack Amendment.

The letter to Bush states: We fervently hope that you do not consider such proposals, but that you lift the existing embargo and allow Cuba to show the rest of the world its undeniable advances and achievements, in the spirit of the best sons of your people

The letter is signed by dozens of writers, artists, intellectuals, professionals, and citizens of all strata of Nicaraguan society.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

West Indian Commission Hears Integration Views

FL1412000190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2216 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Dec 13, CANA—Members of the independent West Indian Commission were due to fly to Antigua on Thursday afternoon after hearing the views of a cross-section of St. Kitts and Nevis society concerning the future direction of the regional integration movement.

Issues raised during the two-day consultation included the state of intra-regional transportation, the need to counter North American cultural penetration of the region mainly through television, freedom of movement

for Caribbean Community (Caricom) citizens, and the need to widen Caricom membership to include non-English-speaking countries.

"If we are really serious about the integration and movement of goods, I think transport is vital," said one resident of the rural village of Sadlers, citing the need for an improvement in intra-regional transportation.

Local journalists expressed concern about the inundation of the region by North American television programmes. As a response, they proposed production of more regional programmes. They also called for the establishment of an independent Caribbean radio network and of regional institutions to support careers in journalism. Journalists suggested institutions like the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) could be approached for assistance in strengthening the regional mass media.

Appearing on behalf of the St. Kitts-Nevis National Association of Disabled People, president Victor Daley called for the creation within the Caricom secretariat of a special desk to handle issues concerning the disabled. He said the disabled had often been overlooked in regional development planning. He noted, for example, that construction of buildings in the Caribbean was generally undertaken without making access provisions for disabled people.

Opposition St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party leader Dr. Denzil Douglas examined prospects for the Caribbean in light of emerging megablocs. "It is important to embrace and harness the potential of island states and territories of the Caribbean and those states bordering the Caribbean Sea," he said, urging an expansion of Caricom membership. Douglas said expanding Caricom was fundamental to the Caribbean being able to survive in the coming age of megablocs.

Former Premier Lee Moore, head of the party-affiliated St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union, held similar views. Moore called for the regionalization of social security systems within Caricom. He also suggested the introduction of trade unionism as a subject in the school system.

The commission met members of the government in a closed door session.

A high school teacher, Lorna Callender, speaking on behalf of sixth-formers, cited the need for a Caribbean flag and national anthem. Her students also called for school libraries to be mandated to stock newspapers from throughout the region, and for freer movement of persons throughout the area.

However, concern was expressed at the Sadlers meetings about the impact freer movement could have. "With a place like Guyana experiencing difficulty, those people come in, eat up the couple jobs that we got. Then our people will be left...where will they go?" asked one complaining speaker. Taxi driver Joe Freeman was concerned about proposals to do away with the British Privy Council as the region's highest court. Tell them to leave the privy council where it is," he urged.

Representatives of the Christian community in their meeting with the commission Thursday expressed concern at social ills in the region, and suggested that declining morals and values result from decreasing regard for religion. The St. Kitts Christian Council, led by President Reverend Rudolph holder, expressed the view that growing levels of crime, prostitution, and drug trafficking confirm a definite move away from God.

The organisation said emphasis should be placed on the need for greater appreciation of self-worth which, it said, is severely lacking in some areas. The council suggested more emphasis on education, if the goal of regional unity is to be achieved. It said if regional unity is to be a working reality there should also exist a feeling among people in each constituent nation that they are unhindered in raising their voices on matters affecting their livelihood.

Barbados

Sandiford To Sign Loan Agreement in London

FL1312193090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1837 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 13, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford flew to London on Wednesday night to sign a loan agreement for 30 million pounds sterling as the Senate approved the borrowing to support the government's capital programme.

Junior Finance Minister Dr. Carl Clarke told the Senate, during debate on a government resolution seeking the upper chamber's approval, that the loan from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, a merchant bank, was being secured as Barbados faced graduation from the World Bank next year. With this development, he said, Barbados would have to turn to the internaional financial markets for its capital financing needs.

Opposition Senator Wendell Mc Clean was critical of the "particularly expensive" terms of the loan, which he said indicated Barbados had lost creditworthiness. The loan, repayable over 25 years, carries an interest of 13.5 per cent.

Senator Clarke, however, said no other Caribbean Community (Caricom) country could have gone into the international market now and secured the terms and conditions gained by Barbados. He said the loan was needed because the fiscal deficit and government cash flow were aggravated by concessions granted to the private sector in agriculture and manufacturing and by civil service wages settlements and reclassification. He said total external debt servicing this year was 322.2 million dollars, the highest in six years.

The loan funds will finance foreign costs of capital works in the areas of airport development, road construction, and coastal conservation, he said.

Dr. Clarke said if Barbados had sought to obtain the loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it would have had to surrender a part of its sovereignty.

Opposition and independent senators questioned government's determination to correct the current fiscal imbalance contending that possible sources of revenue, such as land development taxes, were being ignored. They also questioned whether alternative, less costly avenues of financing had been explored.

Senator Mc Clean, finance spokesman of the opposition National Democratic Party (NDP), contended that the loan was too late to impact on the 1990-91 fiscal arrangements.

A first drawdown of 30 per cent the loan amount will be made immediately, with the remainder payable by March 14, 1991.

Dominican Republic

Progress of IMF Agreement Talks Viewed

FL1312173590 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Station commentary: "The Negotiations With the IMF"]

[Text] The entire country is focusing at this time on the talks between government specialists and officials and IMF experts in the search for arrangements that would be acceptable to the Dominican Republic. These arrangements are aimed at the signing of an agreement that leads to the renegotiation of the foreign debt and fundamental changes in the government's economic and fiscal policy.

In reality, we are faced with the confluence of interests in which the most important issue is not whether or not an agreement with the IMF is signed, but under what conditions and how it would be implemented. The Dominican Republic has a heavy foreign debt on its shoulders, which to a great extent does not have very healthy origins. In addition, all of its lines of credit are closed. This is so because the Dominican Republic has refused to sign an agreement which, up to now, has had terms that have been contrary to the supreme national interest.

There are forces inside and outside the country which are applying pressure of the signing of the IMF agreement. Other, no less important sectors, are also questioning this measure. We believe—and we repeat—that the problem does not lie whether or not an agreement should be concluded. The basic issue is that the signing of the agreement gets the results wished by the people and that it does not make the crisis we are suffering more complicated and serious.

President Balaguer's moderation is aimed at preventing interested parties and private goals from influencing a decision which should, above all, result in a healthy and permanent shift in the national economy. It is as simple as this.

Haiti

Funeral of Explosion Victims Scheduled Today

FL1312193190 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to a press release from the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], the funeral of those who died during the terrorist attack of 5 December will be held today, 13 December, at 0830, at Sacre-Coeur Church in Turgeau. [passage omitted].

FNCD believes the people understand that the blood of Virgina Pierre-Louis, 19; Elia Celian, 26; Saint-Martin Antonin, 26; Saintil Joseph, 22; Phares Etienne, 30; and Madeleine Saint-Vil, 51, did not flow for nothing. We have counted bodies, we are dressing wounds, but we will not lose the battle, the statement said. The avalanche of change must occur on 16 December.

Macoutes Condemned During Ceremony

FL1412020090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpt] An impressive crowd attended the funeral ceremony this morning of six of the seven victims of the 5 December slaughter in Petionville. The funeral ceremony was conducted by a dozen priests in the crowded Sacre-Coeur Church. It was necessary every now and then for Father Antoine Adrien to ask the audience to keep silent.

On the other hand, the parents of the victims cried loudly when the six coffins arrived, covered with the national flag and the flags of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] and of the First-Class Fighting Rooster [symbol of victory in Haitian culture]. Many important political and diplomatic personalities were in attendance to pay their homage to the victims, such as Jean-Bertrand Aristide; Louis Dejoie; Victor Benoit; and the American and French ambassadors to Haiti, Alvin P. Adams and Jean Raphael Dufour.

One of the co-officiating priests, Father William Smart, severely criticized those forces opposed to change who are guilty of such an odious crime. In spite of this tragedy, Father Smart called on the population to vote correctly in Sunday's elections to thwart the stateless persons.

[Begin Smart recording] At the same time, before these dead bodies that show how the enemy wants to spread death, we who are standing here mean life, we mean hope; we are saying to the people: Today we stand up so that death ends in Haiti. Today we stand up to show everyone that we will not give up. On Sunday, you must do your duty and vote for a different society in Haiti, in which there will no longer be death. Today in this church

we stand up to say that tears must stop running from poor people's eyes; we stand up to say that they must stop crushing our people. On Sunday morning, whether it rains or storms, no matter what happens, we will stand up and vote so that death ends in this country. [end recording]

[Passage omitted] Many people were standing around the church, among them several partisans of the Avalanche candidate. A suspicious individual who, according to witnesses was carrying a communication device and a revolver, was arrested by the police. The police on duty this morning systematically checked passersby, especially those carrying a bag. An improvised demonstration followed the ceremony, during which the demonstrators severely condemned the sector against change, and supported the vote for Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Sunday's elections.

Father Aristide Discusses Visit to Venezuela

FL1312215390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Report on news conference given by Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the Christopher Hotel in Port-au-Prince on 12 December—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] According to presidential candidate Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], his visit with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on Tuesday, 11 December, was a meeting between a president who is already governing [Perez] and a president who is about to begin governing [Aristide].

Father Aristide began the news conference, held in a small room of the Christopher Hotel, by reading to members of the national and international press, the OAS, UN observers, and others in attendance, a two-page history he said he wrote in Venezuela on Tuesday morning.

Aristide said that 11 December is destined to be a most important historical date for the Haitian people. It is on this date that President Carlos Andres Perez offered to repay Haitian help after 1804 [date of Haiti's independence proclamation] in achieving Venezuela's freedom. [passage omitted]

All the people who say they are democrats have good reason to help Haiti in her struggle for real democracy, Aristide asserted. Venezuela has agreed to accept the results of the forthcoming elections and to collaborate with whichever government is elected. The Venezuelan president condemned the 5 December terrorist attack in Petionville, expressed his sympathy for the victims, and offered personal help for the wounded in the form of a $10,000 gift. [passage omitted]

Father Aristide denied rumors that it was President George Bush he went to meet and refused comment on Marc Bazin turning down the invitation to Venezuela, as well as Bazin's statement that he found the prospect of an overseas consecration distasteful. It was therefore a private meeting between Father Aristide and Venezuelan President Perez in Caracas the day before yesterday. President Perez had refused to comment on what was discussed.

During the same news conference, a journalist raised a question concerning the sector calling itself the Coordination of Popular Organizations that presented 500 allegedly illegal electoral cards to the press, and that warned of 300-400 Dominican Zenglendos awaiting orders from the Macoutes. Aristide declared that he knows nothing about this organization and has no connection with it. He heard about it through the press like everyone else. [passage omitted]

Father Aristide added that he is waiting for and will meet with all candidates who want to reinforce the Avalanche. The door remains open to them, he said. [passage omitted]

Aristide Reiterates Call for Lafontant Arrest

FL1312200090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1928 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec 13, CANA—Leading presidential candidate, Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said he would have Duvalierist Roger Lafontant arrested if he wins Sunday's elections.

Lafontant served as interior minister during the 28-year Duvalier family dictatorship which was toppled in 1986, and is the reputed head of the Ton Ton Macoutes, the feared secret police which ensured Duvalier's hold on power. He fled Haiti after President Jean-Claude Duvalier's ousting in February 1986, but came back in October seeking to contest the elections. He was disqualified by electoral authorities. A warrant is out for his arrest but authorities have apparently been reluctant to enforce the order.

"Lafontant.... does not respect any type of law, and according to the law, they would have to arrest him....," Father Aristide told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] in an interview. Aristide had consistently called on the authorities to arrest the former interior minister, described as being ruthless by many observers here.

"Unfortunately he is still free, so when we have to talk about security, you have to realise that (Lafontant) means insecurity," Aristide said.

Aristide, seen as a champion of Haiti's poor majority, suggested Lafontant should seek to leave Haiti before Feburary 7, when the new head of state elected in Sunday's elections will take office.

"We will win and, maybe, he will be clever enough to leave the country before Febuary 7, if not we will just have to apply the law."

Aristide said he would seek to unite all Haitians in an effort to rebuild the country, the poorest in the western hemipshere. He said the recent behaviour of the Army had given hope for a peaceful election on Sunday.

Political observers said new Army chief, General Herard Abraham, unlike his predecessors, had shown a level of professionalism and honesty. The Army, under Abraham's command, has expressed support for the election. Previous Army chiefs opposed free elections.

Aristide said a "new Haiti" would seek international assistance to help anchor its fledgling democracy.

Macoutes Complain of Persecution by Authorities

FL1412010090 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Union for National Reconciliation [URN], the Macoutes' party, complains in press releases that two ministers, the minister of the interior and the minister of justice, are persecuting them. URN, headed by Roger Lafontant, advises that they have been persecuted for the past few days.

On the morning of 12 December, according to one press release, a group of armed men came to search the houses of several URN members. The armed men wore dark-green uniforms. Army sources and police we contacted seemed unaware of such an order.

The second communique sent by Roger Lafontant's party stated that the minister of the interior and the minister of justice gave instructions to arrest some of the URN members accused of being accomplices in the Petionville slaughter on 5 December.

These two press releases—and one sent earlier—imply that the Macoutes are in trouble. The Macoutes' party, headed by Roger Lafontant, stated that a plot is being organized against what he calls the class. According to his allegations, the Macoutes, a group of peaceful citizens who do not kill people, have nothing to do with slaughter, and are unable to kill even an ant, are now being persecuted for the slaughter in Petionville, while they, the Macoutes, do not deal with blood.

Investigation Forecasts Further 'Slaughter'

FL1212013390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The investigation of the 5 December events in Petionville, conducted by Coordination of Popular Organizations regarding the events, reveals the spectre of a new slaughter before the 16 December elections, and the persistence of fraudulent practices during the electoral process.

First of all, the investigators state that the slaughter of the nation's sons did not achieve its goal of physically eliminating the candidate of the National Front for Democracy and Change [FNCD]. Whether it concerns candidates rejected by the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], or others caught off-guard by a wave of the Avalanche movement, the sector against change is aiming only to sabotage the elections, specifies one committee member.

In its Machiavellian purpose, the report continues, this sector already enjoys the support of a Dominican commando unit, estimated to consist of several hundred people, now being trained in the national territory. [passage omitted].

As evidence of the fraudulent practices referred to by the Coordination of Popular Organization investigators, a stack of electoral cards—allegedly bought by candidates—was presented to the press. Questioned about the authenticity and objectivity of such presentation, Abner Francois, member of the Popular Coordination, merely alluded to the known case of a mayoral candidate in Delmas, adding that this candidate is not likely to be the only one involved in such a fraudulent practice. The object was to demonstrate that the majority of journalists, anxious about the modalities and procedures of this investigation, have not been kept advised. To Abner Francois, it is the press' duty to pursue such an investigation. [passage omitted].

In any case, the results of this probe, conducted in fifteen days by the Coordination of Popular Organizations, will be submitted to further analysis by the CEP. With relation to plots aimed at further slaughter of the population, the Coordination of Popular Organizations urges citizens to remain vigilant from now until election day, 16 December.

Army Makes Final Preparations for Elections

FL1412002590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The Army is intensifying its patrols in the capital as the elections approach. Troops are now on alert and will be deployed when necessary.

It is a decentralized system that is set up for the 16 December elections. Colonel Raoul Cedras, in charge of the coordinating committee for security in the electoral activities, explained that the Army is working in close collaboration with the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] in Port-au-Prince and that commanders of departments are working with the Departmental Electoral Bureau [BED] presidents. [passage omitted]

Colonel Cedras also commented that the attack of 5 December in Petionville was a barbarous act that the Army condemns. He did not, however, provide a formal guarantee that such acts would not happen again. [passage omitted]

Third Attack on MOP Results in Serious Injury

FL1412000590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] A movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] militant [as received] was seriously wounded by blades [as heard] yesterday at Portal Saint-Joseph. It is the third attack against MOP militants since the electoral process began.

Police, PRD Militants Clash in Tejupilco

PA1312172790 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1325 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The General Directorate of Public Security and Transit of Mexico State has issued the following information on the acts of violence that took place yesterday in the municipality of Tejupilco.

For the past 30 days, members of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] have been picketing in front of the Tejupilco Municipal Palace and no serious incidents have occurred. On 12 December, however, during a meeting organized by Eberto Castillo and other national and local PRD leaders, such as Luis Quintanilla—a former PRD mayor candidate in Valle de Bravo—the crowd was incited to seize the municipal palace by force.

Fernando Arce, a local PRD leader, also organized a group of women. PRD militants fired at the front of the public building. As they moved on, the PRD militants destroyed six patrol cars. Security police tried to talk to the attackers but were unsuccessful.

Antiriot policemen who were in the municipal building used tear gas as they tried to leave it and were chased by PRD militants who fired shots and threw bricks, rocks, and other objects at them.

Approximately 50 PRD militants remained inside the municipal palace for a few hours as approximately 200 more remained outside. They carried small arms and rifles.

Once they left the building, observers noticed that it had been seriously damaged. The attackers had also cut telephone lines. Two policemen—Sergio Bravo Ramirez and Jesus Lascalo Vadillo—and a civilian were killed.

The injured include Jose Luis Mejia, who is the state representative of the Government Secretariat; police commander Jose Luis Munoz, and 21 policemen.

It is worth noting that the PRD leaders who instigated the PRD militants left the area as soon as the violence erupted.

The Office of the Attorney General will begin investigations and charges will be filed with the National Human Rights Commission.

El Salvador

Air Force Commander Says War To End in 1991

PA1312224990 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 11 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] General Rafael Villamariona, commander of the Salvadoran Air Force (FAS), said on 10 December that the armed conflict in the country will end in 1991, either through military or peaceful means. He also said that a new group of planes to reinforce the FAS might arrive by the end of this year.

Villamariona participated in the funeral for Sublieutenant Oscar Roberto Tario Nolasco, a pilot who was hit by rebel shooting when he was transporting wounded soldiers in a helicopter in Usulutan Department. Villamariona said the Armed Forces have the capacity to militarily defeat the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

The government is trying with all possible means to end the war through negotiations, but if the guerrillas insist on violence, I think force will be imposed to end the conflict," Villamariona said. [no opening quotes as published]

The FAS commander lamented the death of Sublieutenant Tario, adding that such actions give the military institution strength to continue protecting the people from the actions by the rebels.

Regarding the new aircraft, he said the type and number of planes are still not known, but he hopes they will arrive before the end of this year.

Villamariona said the FAS will be implementing a new tactic to evade the SAM-7 and SAM-14 missiles, which in less than a month have downed two airplanes and one helicopter. The general refused, however, to explain the strategy to be used. "You will see it when it is implemented," the FAS commander said.

Radio Venceremos Says Army 'Fled' to Honduras

PA1312221690 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Bracamonte Battalion was dispersed on the banks of the Sumpul River in Chalatenango Department where our forces inflicted approximately 100 casualties and seized a large amount of weapons. After being dispersed, the government troops fled to Honduras. Shamefully, the Bracamonte Battalion threw its weapons into the Sumpul River and fled to Honduras.

As we have been reporting, on 10 December a strategy of persecution and annihilation was initiated against four companies of the Bracamonte Battalion in Las Vueltas jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department. The strategy was called: Commander Dimas Rodriguez and other 1989 heroes, we fight for democracy.

Cristiani's Army fled in disarray through creeks and riverbeds and ended up on the banks of the Sumpul River, specifically in Yurike and Coyolar Villages in Las Vueltas jurisdiction. Our companeros chased the Bracamonte Battalion for seven km. One of the elite battalions, trained and financed by the United States, was chased for seven km. After pursuing them for seven km, the four companies of the Bracamonte Battalion were expelled from our national territory and ended up in Honduran territory.

As a result of this successful maneuver, so far there have been 94 casualties, including four lieutenants, two pilots, and one artilleryman. We also took 11 POW's and downed one helicopter. We seized a 90-mm cannon with five grenades, 15 M-16 rifles, one M-203 grenade launcher, two M-60 machine guns with 15 cartridges, three M-72 grenade launchers, 14 hand grenades, 30 knapsacks, one PRC-77 radio, 5,000 cartridges, boots, uniforms, and other materiel.

Companeros Eliseo, Marvin, and Misael fell heroically in this successful maneuver of harassment and annihilation against four companies of the Bracamonte Battalion.

The antidemocratic Army's General Staff responded by bombing Arcatao Village, east of Chalatenango.

After 36 hours of fighting, an A-37 plane arrived and tried to support the troops but had to leave the area immediately. The almost nonexistent air support demoralized the troops of the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] dictatorship.

Clashes Reported in Several Departments

PA1312224790 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Today, 12 December, the 3d Infantry Brigade located in San Miguel was attacked with artillery fire. During the attack, six 81-millimeter projectiles hit the Army installations, causing 14 casualties, including a second cavalry sergeant. In addition, urban commando units sabotaged two bank offices in San Salvador this morning.

Nine other casualties were inflicted on 3d Infantry Brigade troops in attacks that took place in Lolotique, San Miguel. Other attacks on these same troops took place in the town of Chapeltique, San Miguel Department, where seven casualties were inflicted. Acts of sabotage were also conducted on the road between Chapeltique and (Guatasdiagua) as well as between Chapeltique and Sesori, where barricades were also set up.

The Anastacio Aquino Central Front reported that at 1045 today, National Guard troops were ambushed in San Isidro and Las Vainillas Cantons, Cabanas Department. A total of 15 casualties were inflicted on these troops.

In Chalatenango, our army attacked the barracks of Military Detachment No. 1 early this morning with artillery fire. They also attacked enemy positions in El

Refugio, La Palma, and Chalatenango. No casualties were reported so far in both attacks.

National police installations were attacked in Nueva Concepcion, Chalatenango Department. Twelve artillery projectiles hit the installations. The towns of San Ignacio, Comalapa, Dulce Nombre de Maria, Aguacaliente, and La Reina—all located in Chalatenango—were occupied.

Residents in the towns located along the North Junction Road, La Palma, San Ignacio, and (El Poi) charge that both soldiers from the 4th Infantry Brigade and the Treasury Police steal from people in those towns and identify themselves as members of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

In addition, a stretch of the North Junction Road was occupied by our forces, which set up eight barricades.

Guatemala

Plot Discovered To Bomb Government Buildings

PA1412015890 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 8 Dec 90 p7

[Report by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] Guatemala, 8 Dec—Colonel Julio Enrique Caballeros, director general of the National Police, has revealed threats of terrorist attacks against government buildings by opponents of the Christian Democratic government.

During a news conference at the Police Public Relations Office on 7 December, Col. Caballeros explained the discovery of a plan to dynamite the country's government buildings, especially in the capital city.

Herman Grotewold, third commander and inspector general of the police force, and Sandra Morales, police spokeswoman from Esquipulas, Chiquimula, were present at the news conference.

Caballeros said that the terrorist plan has forced the government to establish discreet but severe security measures in the main government buildings using civilian security personnel.

Caballeros also said that the terrorists plan to use a new type of weapon: bombs launched by "home-made" cannons built from propane gas cylinders.

Col. Caballeros said that recently two bombs, which had been placed at the Development Ministry in Zone 13 and at the National Finance Corporation in Zone 1, were defused.

He said that the discovery of these two bombs had allowed the security corps to confirm the plans to bomb government buildings. He said, however, that measures have been adopted.

He asked citizens to report any suspicious actions they see around government buildings.

Col. Caballeros is sure that the groups involved in these plans are linked to the Salvadoran guerrillas because the seized bombs are exactly like the ones the Salvadoran guerrillas use.

He said that there are reports that the Salvadoran guerrillas are sending arms to the Guatemalan opposition groups.

Honduras

Carias Elaborates on Salvadoran Border Situation

PA1312213890 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata confirmed today that there were clashes between the Salvadoran Army and the guerrillas, forcing wounded soldiers to cross the border into Honduran territory. He called on ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] to get further details regarding the armed conflict and the number of wounded soldiers.

The Honduran foreign minister did not consider the entry of approximately 200 Salvadoran soldiers into the Guarita area, Lempira Department, as a deliberate action and said that it does not represent a violation of the national territory.

The government advised Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani of the incident, however, and asked ONUCA to verify the incident because it is an issue included in the presidential agreement of Esquipulas, Guatemala.

[Begin Carias recording, in progress] ...illegal entry of foreign nationals, and in this case it is a force [words indistinct] violation. I stressed that fact because this is not a deliberate entry by Salvadoran troops into our territory for purposes contrary to our interests.

There were clashes on the Salvadoran side, and these troops have withdrawn to Honduras and are now under Honduran control [words indistinct], much like when an aircraft in combat suffers an accident. It is given access to landing strips, then is seized for some days or weeks, and is later returned. [end recording]

According to the foreign minister, preliminary reports mention that there were 16 seriously wounded men out of 83. Later it was reported that over 100 soldiers entered Honduran territory.

International procedures force Honduras to cooperate and subject the soldiers to control since the case involves military operations.

[Begin Carias recording] At this moment Honduran authorities are at a site with a small detachment. They were informed early today that a group of Salvadorans was coming with some wounded men, for whom they wanted some assistance, which is granted in these cases as humanitarian help. I reiterate, however, the Honduran policy of avoiding participation in this kind of

situation, which is taking place in El Salvador, implying more far-reaching international repercussions. [end recording]

The foreign minister officially said that there have been no clashes between the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Honduran National Army.

Cofadeh Criticizes Discua Appointment

PA1412001490 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Members of the Committee of Relatives of Missing Detainees in Honduras (Cofadeh) have criticized the ouster of General Arnulfo Cantarero from the Armed Forces, as well as the appointment of Luis Alonso Discua as the new commander in chief.

In a communique issued on 9 December, Cofadeh says that Discua Elvir, after studying military intelligence in Argentina, came back to Honduras for several tours of duty, including the command of Battalion 3-16.

The communique says: "This ominous battalion has been the material author of the kidnappings, the tortures, and most of the extrajudicial executions, as has been demonstrated by the statements made before the Inter-American Human Rights Court during the trial against Honduras."

Cofadeh also demanded that President Leonardo Callejas give them a honest report regarding their relatives who have disappeared over the last decade.

* Reportage on 1991 National Budget

* Totals 3.4 Billion Lempiras

91CA0025A San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Yesterday, in the National Congress, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and SECPLAN [Secretariat of Planning, Coordination, and Budget] submitted the General Budget of Revenues and Expenditures of the Republic for 1991. It contains a reduction of 110.9 million lempiras compared with the 1990 figure, equivalent to a 3.2 percent cut.

The draft budget, read by Secretary Marco Augusto Hernandez, totals 3,392,978,625 lempiras, with a reduction of 110,900, 500 lempiras in comparison with the 1990 figure, which amounted to 3,503,888,154 lempiras.

Public education and health consume the major share of the budget: the former with approximately 559.8 million lempiras, and the latter with 417.6 million. Next comes Secopt [Secretariat of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation], which will have 288.5 million lempiras. It has been a tradition during recent years for payments on the public debt to be the item absorbing the largest sum. This year, they will take 945.1 million lempiras, whereas last year 1.1197 billion was spent on them. Meanwhile, centralized services for Executive Branch public expenses will absorb about 497.8 million, with an increase of some 90 million lempiras for this item in comparison with 1990.

However, while public health underwent a cut of approximately 34 million lempiras, the military will continue to benefit from its 247.5 million lempiras, which the Defense Ministry had allocated to it the previous year. Another ministry suffering a reduction is that of communications, which had 298.2 million the year before, an amount cut to 288.5 million this year.

At the beginning of the 90's the economy reflects a structural weakness that is making economic growth over the medium term untenable. The real growth in the gross domestic product, GDP, declined from 4.5 attained in 1988 to 2.1 percent in 1989: a rate lower than the population growth. The gross investment of the consolidated public sector was reduced from 7 to 5 percent of the GDP during the same period (dropping from 700 million to 500 million lempiras). On the other hand, the central government's deficit reached the level of 7.9 percent of the GDP during 1989. More than 50 percent of the deficit was covered with domestic credit, which exerted strong pressure on the general level of prices and the balance of payments accounts.

The basic instrument used to reduce the imbalance was the 1990 Budget of Revenues and Expenditures. Stringent control and monitoring of budgetary spending made it possible to cut the central government deficit from 7.9 percent reached in 1989 to 5.3 percent in 1990. Meanwhile, the net internal credit is expected to decline from 2.5 percent of the GDP in 1989 to 0.5 percent in 1990.

It is estimated that these goals will be attained through a reduction of 150 million in total spending, with respect to the level of outlays budgeted and approved by the Congress in 1990. This will mean that, of the 3.5 billion approved in the budget, only 3.35 billion will be executed.

As for current revenues, they will increase by 600 million in comparison with the level of revenues reached during 1989.

The draft budget submitted to the Congress, which we are reprinting in its entirety in this edition, has been turned over to the Budget Commission so that the latter may issue the pertinent judgment. Itcould be put to a debate next week.

General Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for 1990 and 1991, A Comparison

Heading	1990	1991	Difference
Legislative Branch	24,597,380	28,670,000	+4,072,620
Judicial Branch	24,500,000	27,272,500	+2,772,500
Electoral Agency	19,755,750	16,000,000	-3,755,750
Executive Branch			
Presidency of the Republic	21,564,754	20,628,600	-936,154
Interior and Justice	40,985,120	39,228,000	-1,757,120
Foreign Affairs	34,644,097	38,496,680	+3,852,583
Defense and Public Security	247,500,000	247,500,000	0
Economy and Commerce	20,973,959	17,594,319	-3,379,640
Finance and Public Credit	48,942,382	48,230,265	712,117
Attorney Generalship of the Republic	2,235,770	2,859,000	+623,230
Public Education	532,488,441	559,778,666	+27,290,225
Public Health	451,109,066	417,618,373	-33,490,697
Culture and Tourism	7,957,335	8,167,680	+210,345
Labor and Social Security	35,325,930	37,909,570	+2,583,640
Secopt	298,194,136	288,517,691	-9,676,445
Natural Resources	142,214,035	131,229,688	-10,884,357
Secplan	22,093,588	20,267,620	-1,825,960
Public Debt	1,119,751,100	945,154,817	-174,596,283
Centralized Services for Executive Branch Public Expenses	409,055,311	497,846,156	+88,790,845
Totals	3,503,888,154	3,392,978,625	-110,909,529

* Revenue Sources Enumerated

91CA0025B San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The draft national budget for 1991 calls for a total revenue of 3.993 billion lempiras, of which the sum of 2.4844 billion represents current income, and 908.6 million capital income.

The draft sent to the Legislative Chamber for approval amounts to 3,392,978,625 lempiras; hence, it is exceeded by the estimated revenues.

The explanation of reasons for the budget claims that current income will post an increase of 18.6 percent over that collected this year, with the implementation of the economic adjustment measures.

This increase will be generated by the sales tax, the repeal of exemptions and releases, customs valuation based on the free market price of foreign currency, amendments to the income tax, and selective taxes on consumption.

Capital income will come from Central Bank credit totaling 500 million, and 408.6 million in loans from the Agency for International Development (AID), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE), and other international agencies.

Finance Ministry officials claim to expect an increase in current income owing to the rise in production of goods and services, as well as the expectations of attaining better sales prices on international markets.

The estimated current income is distributed between tax revenues of 2.263 billion lempiras and non-tax revenues of 221.4 million lempiras.

Insofar as the income tax is concerned, it is projected that 520 million lempiras will be collected, which amounts to 73.2 million more than this year. As for the property tax, 20 million is projected, posting an increase of four million. The tax on production, consumption, and sales is expected to bring 810.8 million lempiras, 205.6 million more than in 1990. And the tax on specific activities is projected as 86 million, exceeding the figure for this period by four million.

The tax on imports is estimated as producing revenue of 643 million lempiras, showing an increase of 106 million; while the tax on exports will bring 181.5 million lempiras, with a reduction of 49 million lempiras occurring.

This decline is due to the gradual elimination of the tax on traditional exports, and the total abolishment of that on non-traditional exports.

Non-tax revenues will post an increase of 45.9 million lempiras.

The revenues from the tax on imports will increase, with levies on raw materials rising from 2 to 4 percent, and with an anticipated hike in international oil prices.

As for exports, coffee will not bring tax revenues because the prices expected on the international market will not exceed $100 per bag.

Among the investments stipulated are operating expenses for: the new Gracias, La Esperanza, and San Marcos de Ocotepeque hospitals; the construction of the Tocoa and Olanchito hospitals; and a transfer to the SANAA [National Waterworks and Sewer Systems Service] to complete the Concepcion dam and the rural waterworks in Valle de Comayagua.

The budget calls for a subsidy to urban transportation due to a rise in fuel prices, paving of the Siguatepeque-La Esperanza highway, repaving of the northern San Pedro Sula-Tela and Puerto Cortes-San Pedro Sula highways, as well as paving of the Talanga-Ojo de Agua highway.

Included as well is the construction of the Tegucigalpa outer beltway, is the paving of Choluteca Street, an expansion of the school bonus, and an increase in the central fund for financing monetary correction.

* Congress Modifies Budget

91CA0025C San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Last night, in a first debate, the National Congress approved the national budget for 1991, reducing it by 3.3 million lempiras in comparison with the amount proposed by the government. It was left totaling 3,389,616,290.00 lempiras.

This first debate is exclusively procedural, confined to a reading of the items which have met with virtual indifference on the part of the deputies, who withhold their force for the third and last debate.

A total of 3,392,978,625.00 lempiras is called for in the government draft, but the decision of a congressional commission has modified the figure to 3,389,616,290.00 lempiras.

The congressmen have eliminated from the budget programmed revenues totaling 100 million lempiras from selective taxes on consumption which were not approved by the chamber. This sum is compensated for with other current income.

Based on the decision, the Congress is assigned a budget of 30,220,000.00 lempiras; hence, there is an increase of about 2.4 million lempiras in comparison with the government draft.

That of the Judicial Branch is reduced by nearly 1.5 million lempiras compared with the draft allocating 25,685,000.00 lempiras. On the other hand, the electoral agency's budget is maintained at 16 million lempiras.

The budget for the Presidency of the Republic remains at 20,628,600.00 lempiras; and the Interior Ministry is allocated 39,578,000.00 lempiras, thus increasing its budget by about 300,000 lempiras over the amount in the Finance Ministry draft.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is assigned 39,156,270.00 lempiras, with an approximate increase of 600,000 lempiras over the draft total; while the Defense and Public Security budget is kept at 247,500,000.00 lempiras.

The Ministry of Economy budget appropriation is set at 18,189,995.00, posting an increase of nearly 600,000 lempiras over the draft figure. That of the Finance Ministry is set at 47,265,265.00 lempiras, or nearly one million less.

The Attorney Generalship of the Republic receives an appropriation of 2,536,780.00 lempiras, with a cut of about 300,000 lempiras from the figure in the draft. The Public Education Ministry is assigned 559,665,210.00 lempiras, or nearly 100,000 less than the amount planned by the government.

Public Health is given 417,978,373.00 lempiras; hence, it receives an increase of nearly 300,000 lempiras over the draft total. The Ministry of Culture is granted 8,317,680.00 lempiras, or approximately 150,000 more than proposed.

The Labor Ministry accrues 37,669,570.00 lempiras, or about 250,000 less than proposed; while the Secretariat of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation (Secopt) is given 293,167,676.00 lempiras, approximately five million more than planned by the government.

Natural Resources receives 129,155,750.00 lempiras, or nearly two million less than proposed; while Planning, Coordination, and Budget is assigned 17,401,148.00 lempiras, almost three million less than estimated in the draft.

A total of 945,154,817.00 lempiras is earmarked for payment of the Public Debt, as stipulated in the government draft. Meanwhile, Centralized Services for Executive Branch Public Expenses has a budget set at 494,346,156.00 lempiras, about three million less than proposed.

Nicaragua

Police To Dislodge Telcor Strikers

PA1312181890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources reported today that the police will dislodge the strikers

from the government-owned telephone company buildings if they persist in interrupting communications with Central America.

Ermes Guerrero, coordinating director for the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute (Telcor), has told ACAN-EFE that the Nicaraguan Labor Ministry has declared the strike "illegal." The striking Telcor workers belong to Region 4.

Guerrero said, "The workers must stop interrupting communications, because if they do not, they have a 24-hour deadline, which started on 12 December, to leave the buildings; otherwise, the police will dislodge them."

In the last few hours, communications between Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama have remained interrupted because the striking workers cut off the electric energy from the microwave station in Rancho Alegre, in the southern part of the country.

This problem has also left the Departments of Granada, Masaya, and Rivas without communications.

The strikers demand that the government comply with a group contract signed with the Sandinist Government. The Chamorro government regards the contract difficult to comply with because it would cost $13 million a month.

Panama

More on Ford's Call for National Concerted Effort

PA1412005290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Maricarmen Sarsanedas]

[Text] Through Guillermo Ford, Panama's second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, the government has called on the honest labor sector to join in a great and heartfelt national concerted effort to push the country forward.

With regard to this, the planning minister said that the effort will not only include the 13-point demand that the workers presented to the government, but will also seek to find joint solutions to improve Panama's economic situation.

Based on this, Ford stated that the government will not hold talks with leaders such as those fired a few days ago. It will only talk to the workers who love this country and do not want to disrupt public order, but want peace and a dignified and decent life. Asked if a great concerted effort would involve negotiations, Ford replied: "Problems are not solved when people refuse to talk." The minister added: "There are no reasons not to talk." He also said, however, that what will not be accepted is the imposition of false labor leaders, who are motivated by dubious interests such as those that became evident during the coup attempt.

In addition, the planning minister reiterated that all those employees who altered public order without justification, challenging the government's authority, will be fired. Those who simply took part in the strike will not be fired—only those who planned and organized it.

The government cannot remain silent or turn a deaf ear to the people's cry, Ford said, adding that he would speak to the decent labor sector, which is the great majority, until that concerted effort is reached.

Last, Ford announced that there are plans to use $7 million to create small and medium-size businesses to try to help resolve the unemployment problem.

Ford Hails Bank Situation, Condemns Strikers

PA1412144390 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Report on interview with Vice President Guillermo Ford by Celso Contreras at National Banking Commission Office in Panama City on 12 December—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, has said that the National Banking Commission is still studying the Interbanco situation. Ford noted that there has been a dramatic increase in bank deposits. Celso Contreras has interviewed Vice President Ford.

[Contreras] The National Banking Commission met today to study the Interbanco problem. At the end of the meeting, Radio KW Continente interviewed Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy.

When asked about the reopening of Interbanco, Ford said:

[Ford] "No. It would be premature to say that. The analysts and the auditor are studying the reports. There will be another meeting at which they will give us definite information enabling us to adopt a decision."

[Contreras] Ford also said that there has been a dramatic increase in bank deposits, compared to other years, $3 billion in just 11 months.

[Ford] "Fortunately, bank deposits increased dramatically this year. They exceeded $3 billion in 11 months. The banks have great liquidity. We are trying to get them to make loans, and they are replying favorably."

[Contreras] Ford also explained details about the claims filed by Banco Nacional against other government institutions for large sums of money. Ford said:

[Ford] "Banco Nacional inherited the mess that resulted from the squandering by the previous government. The central government owes $950 million to Banco Nacional. The government has been paying Banco Nacional interest. We have been figuring our deposits against what we owe the bank, paying interest on the difference. I

would not say that Banco Nacional is complaining, but that the Banco Nacional president is claiming what is rightfully owed to the bank. As head of the bank, he has to look after the bank's interests."

[Contreras] Is it true that there is a possibility government employees will receive a Christmas bonus? Is this possibility being studied?

[Ford] "I firmly believe in the human value of the Christmas bonus. I would support any measure of this kind. It is a big help. It is a message of peace and conciliation. I cannot tell you about this, however, because it is not up to me to approve any bonus. I am studying it, but I do not want to create false hopes. The government has great limitations. As you know, we have not been able to pay the 13th month bonus. If we could pay the Christmas bonus, I would be the first to support it. No decision, however, has been adopted thus far."

[Contreras] With regard to the workers' rejection of a call for a national concerted effort, Ford said:

[Ford] "I have called for national agreement with serious labor leaders. I have great respect for the labor sector. I would like to see a strong, honest, and determined labor movement, so that they can sit down with the government and private enterprise to reach an agreement. I must say with deep sorrow, however, that labor leaders in Panama have not all been as correct as I would have wished."

[Contreras] In conclusion, Ford referred to lawsuits against President Endara for overstepping his authority. He said:

[Ford] "I am not a lawyer. I cannot really interpret the legal aspects of this case. Every citizen is fully entitled to file lawsuits. The Assembly must analyze them. I believe that the president also has powers, very clearly defined in the Constitution. I am sure that he has not violated the Constitution."

'300' Workers Join in First Day of Strike

PA1312174190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p1

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] A spokesman for the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] has confirmed to EL PANAMA AMERICA that at least 300 of the institute's 3,000 employees did not work yesterday, which was the first day of the indefinite strike called by the IRHE employees.

The spokesman said that yesterday's strike forced four IRHE offices in Panama City to close.

He said that in other parts of the country the institution's offices operated normally.

On December 11 Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the IRHE employees labor union, asked all the workers to join the indefinite strike to protest the firing of about 300 employees who participated in the 5 December strike convoked by the Coordinating Board of Labor Unions.

Rodriguez said that important sectors of the institution participated in the strike, such as the Carrasquilla sector, which handles maintenance, distribution and repairs for the capital city.

He also said that the section in charge of maintenance and repairs of the 230,000, 115,000 and 34,000-volt lines did not work yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Board of Labor Unions has convoked government employees to a march today from Porras park to the Legislative Assembly.

Tear Gas Used To Disperse Workers

PA1412000790 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Report by journalists Omaira de Leon de Watson and Luz Quijada in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Watson] We urge citizens to stay away from the Legislative Assembly building. There are incidents currently going on between workers and members of the National Police.

As they had announced through the National Coordinating Board for the Right to Life, workers have staged a march to the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly was closed because most legislators had left, because there was no quorum this afternoon. Workers once again broke two fences, however—an outer fence and an inner fence—around the Legislative Assembly building and also tried to break down the doors to the building. This prompted police agents and riot police, who were hidden inside the building, to fire shots in the air and use tear gas against the demonstrators. The tear gas has adversely affected us, impairing our ability to communicate.

Please stay away from the Legislative Assembly building. We urge pedestrians and drivers to stay away. Workers are now hurling stones at the police agents. The Assembly building was completely closed. Security units locked all Assembly doors, so we had to break a glass door to get out. Here is Luz Quijada, RPC news staff member, with more information:

[Quijada] I imagine that the workers who were trying to knock down the door to the plenum were affected by the tear gas. There was panic. Let us listen. [chants of "You are the people" heard]

The fence that was built today was knocked down by the workers who marched to the plenum. Later, workers hurled stones at policemen. They were chanting, "You are the people,"—referring to the National Police members and security personnel who were prepared to prevent workers from forcefully entering the Assembly building.

The workers also burned two cars in front of the Assembly building.

Policeman Injured Dispersing Protesters

PA1412010990 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2357 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Riot police used birdshot and tear gas tonight to disperse a demonstration of about 100 workers and labor union leaders who were protesting in front of the Legislative Assembly because of the recent dismissal of workers. The demonstrators knocked down part of the fence around the building to protest the approval of a bill calling for the dismissal of workers who participated in the strike [on 5 December].

These pictures show what was happening a few minutes ago in the vicinity of the Legislative Assembly building, where some 100 labor union leaders were trying to bring anarchy and violence into the capital.

Inside and outside the premises of the Legislative Assembly, several vehicles were burned. During the clashes, an RPC television crew—comprising three reporters and three cameramen—was brutally attacked by the demonstrators, who were opposed to the broadcasting of the violence they were promoting in the vicinity of the Legislative Assembly and on Central Avenue just a few minutes ago.

A group of reporters from RPC Radio was also attacked by those who demand freedom of speech, but who are currently trying to prevent citizens from learning the truth in the capital, where some labor union leaders are trying to promote chaos, anarchy, and violence.

Stones were thrown at several media and local television station reporters who were trying to cover the incidents in the area. Those who demand respect are the first to show a lack of respect through violence and attacks against the professionals who are covering the events.

During the action staged by the labor union leaders, a policeman was brutally attacked and, according to reports from our team of journalists, the police had to resort to the use of tear gas, as these pictures show. The policeman was taken to a hospital.

More on Demonstrations

PA1412024690 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 0117 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Telephone report by newscast editor Omayra de Leon—live]

[Text] Good evening, friends. After touring the city's central area, we can report that the demonstrators who reached the Legislative Assembly did not remain there. They were dispersed by the riot police with tear gas bombs and buckshot. The demonstrators moved to the surrounding areas, and right now, at 2010, they have set trash on fire throughout Central Avenue—that is, from the Legislative Palace up to the Pedro J. Sosa School in Calidonia Avenue. The people who participated in the march and were dispersed by the riot police collected all the trash in the area and at some peddlers' shops and set it on fire in the middle of the streets.

We have also noticed that there are many private security guards protecting the stores in the Central and Calidonia Avenues, which is where the workers have concentrated. The security members are on alert and in many places have already shot in the air to disperse the demonstrators who wanted to get near the stores. As always, there are thieves who get into the demonstrations to steal, along with other people who want to create chaos by attacking stores. This time, it has been impossible for them to do this and loot the stores because all the stores are protected by security personnel.

A few minutes ago, several trucks with riot police were in the area between the Circuito RPC station and the Calidonia intersection. The traffic is returning to normal, although there are some places where trash continues to burn. As I have said, the increased security at stores in the areas is conspicuous. This time the security members will not allow looting by thieves and demonstrators. This is the current situation in the city.

We also want to tell the people who have to go through the Calidonia and Central Avenue areas that traffic is still very slow and that commercial transportation is scarce. The people can only get up to the Bellavista Theater and have to walk from there. Thus, we suggest that those of you who must go to this area take alternate roads, because traffic is still not back to normal as trash is burning in many streets.

The policemen are surveilling the entire area. This is the situation we have observed after going through the central area of the city. We will have more information for you in our upcoming newscasts.

Endara on Events at Legislature

PA1412145990 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Dec 90 p 1-A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] The president of the Republic has commented on the events which occurred yesterday at the Legislative Assembly, saying that he never wanted to cause a confrontation among Panamanians, adding that "if public order is disrupted, we must guarantee that it does not happen again and that is what we are doing."

Endara said that the measures taken to guarantee public order were implemented by the police commanders, because that is their job and because no one has the right to destabilize the country.

The president said that what occurred yesterday around the Legislative Assembly was not repression. The police forces were simply doing their duty.

Asked if there will be additional dismissals, Endara said: "As far as I know, the necessary dismissals have already

taken place." He added that the heads of each government institution can answer that question because they were authorized by the executive branch to handle the matter.

Arias Calderon on Public Force Salary Claims

PA1312221890 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Dec 90 p 1a

[Article by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, minister of government and justice, has stated that the salary claims made by the Public Force, which Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera tried to use as a reason for an uprising, had already been considered and will shortly become effective.

In a recent public statement, Arias Calderon said that when Herrera took over control of the communications facilities in the police headquarters at Ancon, he issued a "political" proclamation that "was not accepted." Herrera then tried to cover it up with socioeconomic claims "that did not receive any support from the other police stations."

Even before the attempted coup, the practical points relating to the policemen's salary claims were about to be solved, but had not been made effective due to bureaucratic procedures, Arias Calderon added.

When Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles was asked about the promotions authorized prior to 1989, he briefly replied by asking in turn: "Where are we going to get the money?"

Carles declined to make any further comments, noting that "there will be enough time later on for that."

Arias Calderon announced that the salary increases have already been discussed by the Budget Commission of the National Assembly and by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy.

He said that "they will be made effective in just a matter of days."

Arias Calderon Denies 'Rumors' About Guerrillas

PA1312221990 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Maricarmen Sarsanedas]

[Text] The rumors about alleged guerrilla groups in the country are part of a "psychological war" to increase the people's insecurity, Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon told EL PANAMA AMERICA yesterday.

When asked about armed groups that have reportedly been organized by former Captain Eliecer Gaytan, Dr. Arias Calderon said that the rumors will be carefully investigated. He added that it is curious that these rumors are spread at a time when coups d'etat are planned, so they actually become part of a psychological war.

Arias Calderon emphatically said that he will use any means to defend democracy. The government and justice minister also rejected the possibility that lawsuits will be filed against President Endara, adding that they would be senseless because the president clearly acted within his constitutional authority.

Dr. Arias Calderon also said he endorses the idea of a national consensus, given that most of the Panamanian people want to live in democracy and they do not support the labor union members from the previous regime.

Herrera Returned to Naos Jail; Refuses to Testify

PA1312160490 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Lionel Blaisdell]

[Text] Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan was transferred yesterday from El Renacer Prison to Naos Prison on Flamenco Island. The transfer took place amid heavy security measures and the deployment of military units, the authorities reported.

EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE reporters went to El Renacer Prison. There, Lieutenant Gordon, a spokesman for the penitentiary, explained that yesterday at approximately 1600 the retired officer was taken from El Renacer to the maximum-security prison on Flamenco Island.

Gordon did not explain the reason for Herrera Hassan's transfer. He only said: "That was a decision made by my superiors." The entrance to El Renacer remains guarded by U.S. soldiers in a light tank who are supporting the National Police. Meanwhile, at the entrance of the canal, an armed boat moves constantly around Naos Prison.

EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE tried to locate the site where Eduardo Herrera was to be questioned by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz but found it to be impossible.

When the reporters arrived at Naos Prison, we found that the entrance was restricted, and we saw a sign that read: "Picture Taking Prohibited," "No Trespassing."

Attorney General Cruz and other officials from the State Attorney's Office arrived in a quickly moving vehicle a few minutes after our arrival at Naos, and the security force was doubled.

Then, Herrera's attorneys—Dr. Alma Lopez de Vallarino, Anibal Vallarino, and Gilma de Leon de Quintero—also went to the prison to assist the perpetrator of the 5 December foiled coup.

Outside the maximum-security prison, U.S. soldiers in combat gear and Panamanian policemen kept reporters from entering Naos Prison.

An armed Southern Command boat, which was visible to local and foreign reporters, constantly patrolled the island.

When the attorneys of Eduardo Herrera left the prison, they told EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE that the colonel does not want to be questioned as long as his jailers are U.S. soldiers and that he will answer Cruz' questions in the Attorney General's Office, across the street from Plaza Porras in Panama City.

Cruz avoided reporters and returned to the city. Once in the city he still refused to comment.

The Public Relations Department of the Attorney General's Office issued a document stating that Herrera refused to answer questions and that he asked his attorneys to leave the jail.

Rebels Issue Communique on 5 Dec Incidents

PA1412021090 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish 10 Dec 90 p 6

["Communique to the nation" issued by "rebel soldiers" in Panama City on 6 December]

[Text] Yesterday, on 5 December, the sovereignty of our beloved Republic of Panama was again trampled on and violated at the request of the current government leaders, which resulted in mourning and bloodshed. We officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops send military greetings to our patriotic troops, who are loyal to our commander, Eduardo Herrera. They acted as they were expected to act, showing high professionalism and strictly following instructions from our commander Eduardo Herrera, who ordered them to carry their rifles over their shoulders with the barrels pointing at the ground. They marched peacefully, accompanied by members of the national and international press, who witnessed the repressive and bellicose attitude, not of Panamanian, but of U.S. troops, who violently prevented the peaceful advance of our commander, Herrera, and his followers, including civilians who joined the march. We will remain on alert, always remembering those loyal troops. Do not give up, because there is an Almighty God in Heaven who will soon prove us right as Christians who love peace and want true democracy and social justice for all Panamanians. We support those humble and loyal units who were violently and unjustly detained. Again, we shake hands in a fraternal and military greeting. We know that our homeland and our people support us.

Panama City, 6 December 1990.

Signed:
Cavalry Captain Jorge Bernal
Infantry Lieutenant Mario Ramos Ocana
Infantry Captain Julio Vallejo

Roundup of Press Reaction to 5 Dec Alleged Coup

PA1312234690

[Editorial Report] Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish on 10 December publishes a report on pages one and 22 citing "confidential documents" on Colonel Eduardo Herrera's foiled coup and its goals. The report says Herrera and his followers had plans to install "a government junta" and "a new People's Assembly" that would "give the government junta special powers" to "release all the members of Noriega's staff, dissolve the Legislative Assembly, send President Guillermo Endara and Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias and Guillermo Ford into exile, and call for elections within a short time." The report adds that the plan was "to reach the Legislative Assembly" and "read a proclamation." It says that "all the province garrisons would join the movement, which would result in the arrest of politicians, ministers, and members of the press who defend the democratic system."

EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE also features Alejandro Perez' column on page six, stating that "the latest plot definitely clears any doubt about the efficiency of the Public Force's policy, which has been designed and implemented by Government Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon." The column adds that "as far as the Public Force is concerned, the government has failed" so the country needs "other plans to guarantee" an "increase in the number of PTJ (Technical Judicial Police) and institutional protection service members." The column says that it will be necessary "to organize an intelligence service that is totally separate from the traditional security corps" and that should "guarantee a democratic government" and "supervise the public security organizations." Consequently, "the Movement of Unionized Lawyers demands a new political law—regulated by a new organization law—for the Public Force and a new government and justice minister."

EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE also carries Luis Vejarano's column on page six with a compilation of political observers' and analysts' commentaries. The information syas that "the North Americans would be the ones to benefit from a coup" because they have failed to introduce "their legal assistance treaty, which has been termed as shameful and insulting for Panama." The column adds that "no one has believed" the story about Herrera's escape because "Naos Island is controlled by the U.S. Army." This means that "the Panamanian Government's request was welcomed by the U.S. State Department" and "the gringos involved in the coup" had no choice "but to follow Washington's orders, disrupt the plan, capture Herrera and his men, and turn them over to the Panamanian authorities."

Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish on 10 December publishes "The Griper" column on page 32, stating that "several witnesses have asserted that Colonel Eduardo Herrera's plans were for President Guillermo Endara to resign" and then "Vice President Guillermo Ford, Governor Plutarco Arrocha, and other

politicians closely linked with the United States would be asked to comprise a government junta, but things did not work out that way."

LA PRENSA Articles View 5 Dec Coup Attempt

PA1412030890

[Editorial Report] Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish on 10 December publishes three articles commenting on the 5 December coup attempt headed by Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

The first article, which is 300 words long, appears on page one under the "As of Today" column. The column argues that although many details are still unknown, "it is undeniable that the assistance requested by the government and immediately provided by the United States was a decisive factor in foiling the coup attempt."

It argues that those who criticize the U.S. intervention do so because they wish that the "coup d'etat had succeeded or because they have not yet realized the magnitude of the danger that the Republic was facing" on 5 December.

The column concludes that this incident "demands an overall review of the policy that the government has so far been implementing in regard to the Public Force, its objectives, structure, and composition to prevent the seed of militarism from sprouting. To not admit mistakes will lead to more mistakes; to make rectifications when warranted is a sign of prudence and good judgment."

The second article, on page 38-A and 300 words long, is signed by Alejandro Perez, who is writing on behalf of the Movement of Unionized Lawyers. In regard to the recent coup attempt, Perez claims that "it is the general belief of most segments of Panamanian society that the government has definitely failed in its handling of the Public Force." He argues that "the superficial changes that have so far been implemented must give way to a much more profound policy to totally restructure the Public Force and all its nationwide security corps." Among the measures, he cites the need for a larger civilian presence within the hierarchy of the National Police.

Perez argues that the democratic system cannot be solely based on increasing the size of the police force. He says that the government should establish a nationwide civil reserve system comprised of citizens who would be on call in the event of coup attempts and other situations. He concludes by stating that the Movement of Unionized Lawyers demands a new policy for the Public Force, which would be regulated by a new charter and a new government and justice minister to oversee it.

The third article, which appears on page 39-A and is 1,000 words long, is signed by Jose Blandon Figueroa. He goes into detail on the government's version of Col. Herrera's escape from jail. Blandon terms the 5 December developments as another "piece of buffoonery in this low-class comedy."

Blandon notes that the presence of policemen on the streets was minimal, not to say nonexistent, on 5 December. This is why, he argues, that "we were amused to hear President Endara say that he was 'proud' of the loyalty shown by the Public Force." Blandon wonders: Where were National Police Director Asvat and his Public Force men during the coup attempt on 5 December?

The author states that the majors who expressed their loyalty to President Endara themselves admitted that there is in fact discontent within the Public Force. Blandon also draws an analogy between the situation in Argentina and Panama. He says that in Argentina "despite—or thanks to—all the concessions and pardons granted to the guerrillas, they have already launched three or four coup attempts. If we continue to trust those who swore loyalty to Noriega only months ago, we will face yet another coup attempt soon."

As for the measures that the government is planning to implement to punish the workers and their leaders who participated in the 4 December march and 5 December strike, Blandon argues that "it is not Endara who is called to establish links between the strike and the coup attempt, regardless of how evident they might appear to be, and much less to violate the military constitution, which they have so firmly defended for other purposes."

Finally, Blandon urges the government to reveal what really happened and who was involved in the 5 December coup attempt, because the citizens are the only ones who remain loyal to democracy, and they at least deserve some honesty.

Armed Men Said Recruiting Guerrillas Near Capital

PA1312215290 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Vilma Figueroa B.]

[Text] LA PRENSA learned on 12 December that armed men wearing fatigue uniforms arrived at Pacora municipality to recruit guerrillas. Until now, it is not known who they are or what type of military equipment they are carrying.

Sublieutenant Arturo Andrade of the Pacora police precinct presented a report on the incident to the police chief.

Reporter Allegedly Receives Calls From Gaytan

PA1412020990 Panama City Circuito RPC Telvision in Spanish 2327 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Radio announcer Ramon Jimenez Velez has said he received calls from former military officers who claim to be hiding in mountainous regions of the country.

[Jimenez Velez] "During the first call, the man identified himself as Captain Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan, but during the second call, he did not identify himself. Because of the latest incidents, however, I believe he may be one of the captains—Jorge Eliecer Bernal or another captain—who joined Colonel Eduardo Herrera in the 5 December actions and was not arrested.

During the first call, I was told about the presence of armed groups in the area of Chorcha and about some incidents in the vicinity of Cerro Azul. I received a call yesterday, 12 December, from a person who said he would continue to call me to inform me about this. This caller also told me about some confrontation in the area of Chepo, near Madrono Hill. The first time, the caller told me about 250 men, including some Guatemalans and Colombians. The second caller talked to me about some 100 men. It was not the same person, however, who spoke on both occasions."

[Announcer] Dear viewers, we have a recording of the telephone call received by Mr. Jimenez Velez yesterday:

[Caller] "We clashed with the Public Force for 22 minutes in Madrono, Mamoni. We have another group of 100 rebels in Ciri Grande, behind Capira. The commander of the group in Madrono, Mamoni is a Chiriqui native [Chiricano] known as Captain Nino. He is the strongest and most loyal man in the group, which rebelled along with Col. Eduardo Herrera. I want you to pass on this information—as it was reported in EL SIGLO today—especially now that the labor union leaders have been dismissed."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, the representatives of the corregimientos of San Felix and Las Lajas, Chiriqui Province—Abel Mediavero and Felix Alvarado—denied the existence of guerrilla groups in the area.

[Mediavero] "What may be taking place in the area of the Chorcha Mountain Range is that they are trying to capture three Public Force deserters who have not yet been caught."

[Alvarado] "There is a loss of cattle in eastern Chiriqui Province, but that has been taking place for many years, and it has not been caused by guerrillas, but by cattle rustlers."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, National Police Director Ebrahim Asvat also denied the existence of guerrillas in the area of Pacora, Chiriqui Province, and Veraguas Province.

[Asvat] "We did find two or three armed persons wearing camouflage pants. Does this mean there is a guerrilla presence in Panama? That is my first question. We have been inspecting the area to determine what is going on. There are also many rumors in the area of Chiriqui Province. We received a report from the National Air Service today telling us that they visited a place called Chorcha. They flew over the entire mountain range and found absolutely nothing. We are going to continue to investigate to see what is going on. A total of 21 persons have not reported back after leaving this place on that day [not further specified]. It is possible that these people are fugitives in different parts of the country."

20 Dec Decreed 'Day of National Reflection'

PA1412025790 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 90 pp A-1, A-2

[Text] Executive Decree No. 484 (of 10 December 1990)

"By which 20 December 1990 is declared a Day of National Reflection, and national and municipal public offices are ordered closed."

Whereas:

On 20 December 1989 a military action took place in Panama due to the crimes by the dictatorial regime that ruled until that date. This military action caused our country a traumatic experience and meant the starting point for the country's democratic reconstruction;

We Panamanians also need to deepen our reflection on the meaning of this date and pray to God that we never again experience such events;

The president of the Republic, using his legal powers,

Decrees:

Article 1: To declare that 20 December 1990 be observed as a Day of National Reflection.

Article 2: To order national and municipal public offices all over the country closed on 20 December 1990.

Article 3: Exceptions to the offices listed under Article 2 are offices that by the nature of their service and by their special shift work must remain open. These include the ports of Balboa and Cristobal, the Panama Railroad, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, the National Institute of Telecommunications, the National Water and Sanitation Institute, and health and postal services. Banks will operate according to the timetable established by the National Banking Commission.

Issued in Panama City on 10 December 1990

For release and publication,
Guillermo Endara Galimany, president of the Republic
Ricardo Arias Calderon, government and justice minister

Papo Renews Call for Constitutent Assembly

PA1412044790 Panama City El SIGLO in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p 52

[Communique issued by the People's Action Party in Panama City on 5 December]

[Text] In view of the coup attempt by Public Force [FP] units and some retired officers, the People's Action Party (Papo) states the following:

1. It rejects the military coup attempt headed by Colonel Eduardo Herrera, retired, former chief of the so-called FP.

2. The Panamanian people must close ranks to defend a democratic system, which, despite its flaws, offers alternatives that militarism totally rejects.

3. The coup attempt was foiled, to Panama's disgrace, by U.S. troops largely because of the inadequate structuring of the National Police, which accepted personnel loyal to the military regime.

4. The national government must assess the coup to totally restructure the regime—destroying every human and institutional vestige of the dictatorship—and recognize its role as a transition government committed to the democratic objectives of our people.

5. The call to a national constituent assembly represents the only democratic procedure to begin a constructive national dialogue that fosters in the country a climate of reconciliation, welfare, and security for our people.

6. The experience we went through in the past hours compels the government to abandon its naive and amateurish policies in order to handle the FP and social conflicts.

In rejecting the coup attempt and risk-taking as political procedures, Papo demands the structuring of a veritable democratic system as the supreme objective of the Panamanian people. It holds ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] responsible, should it adhere to its unpopular policies, for the institutional disaster that may befall the Republic.

Therefore, Papo reiterates its central goals: to strive for a provisional civilian government that accurately guarantees the passage from dictatorship to democracy; to strive for the immediate call to a national constituent asssembly; and to strive for a government policy that offers security and welfare to the Panamanian people.

Panama, 5 December 1990
President Carlos Ivan Zuniga, for the National Executive Comittee, and General Secretary Ricardo Turner.

Former Policemen Leave Embassy for Guatemala

PA1312233290 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Captain Rafael Jurado and Sublieutenants Carlos Rumbo Perez and Dario Cabezas—who have been implicated in an alleged coup attempt and who sought refuge at the Guatemalan Embassy in Panama—have left that embassy for Guatemala under strict security. Guatemalan Amassador to Panama Hector Gonzalez Salazerria has reported on this case:

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] It is fortunate that Panama acted so quickly and respected all the international accords on asylum rights. The Guatemalan Government is completely satisfied.

[Reporter] Did they leave the embassy?

[Gonzalez] They are still under the protection of the Guatemalan Government.

[Reporter] Where are they going from here?

[Gonzalez] They are leaving the embassy now.

[Reporter] Why was this case handled so quickly?

[Gonzalez] It is fortunate that it was that way.

[Reporter] Captain Jurado, what is your opinion on this? [no answer] Any comments sublieutenant? What did Herrera promise you? [no answer] Mr. Ambassador, the safe-conducts were granted very quickly. What is your opinion?

[Gonzalez] It is fortunate, because it is the right thing to do and what any country would expect in a situation like this. This has not only pleased the Guatemalan Government, but the diplomatic community as well.

[Reporter] Why did your country accept this?

[Gonzalez] It is not a matter of accepting anything. Principles must be respected. The right to asylum was instituted precisely to protect all those who at a given time in a country's political life might be on the unfavorable side. Guatemala respects the principle of the right to asylum, and we also believe that those we help today will help us tomorrow.

[Reporter] Will they contact Panama upon arriving in Guatemala?

[Gonzalez] I cannot speak for them. [end recording]

Chorrillo Refugees Demand U.S. Reparations

PA1312224290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p 32-B

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] A group of approximately 300 Chorrillo neighborhood refugees demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy in Panama on 12 December and then marched to the Presidency, demanding $30,000 as indemnification for each family in the neighborhood that lost their goods and houses as a result of the U.S. military action that ousted former general Manuel Noriega on 20 December 1989.

The Chorrillo demonstrators also demanded better living conditions at the refugee camp, in the hangar at Albrook Field, and that the Panamanian Government speed up housing construction.

Hector Avila, who led the demonstrators, said that the U.S. Government should help the Panamanians who

suffered the consequences of the U.S. invasion of Panama last December, just as they helped Egypt with millions of dollars in military aid.

Avila was met by a high-ranking officer at the U.S. Embassy who gave him a letter in which Ambassador Hinton tells the Chorrillo neighborhood that the problem of the families affected by the invasion is being handled by agencies created by the Panamanian Government, and that they should therefore go to them for further information.

The demonstration went along Balboa Avenue and Central Avenue without incident.

Avila said that on 20 December the Chorrillo residents will stand watch in the neighborhood to remember those who died on that date.

The Chorrillo demonstrators were met at the Presidency by a high-ranking official of the Panamanian Government.

Argentina

Menem Will 'Continue To Struggle' for Falklands

PY1412122490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1142 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem has ratified his "vocation and decision" to "continue to struggle until we definitely recover our territory, the Malvinas Islands," above and beyond "controversy [pleitos] and international discussions."

Menem ratified this decision of his government during a touching ceremony on 13 December in the White Room of Government House during which the granting of some 10,000 pensions to those who fought in the Malvinas and to relatives of the soldiers who died in the 1982 conflict was announced.

Toward the end of his speech, Menem could not keep back his tears and asked the war veterans "to lift your glasses, you here and me in the Antarctic, and say a prayer for those who remain there." [passage omitted]

The soldiers effusively applauded Menem and repeatedly chanted euphorically; "We will return, we will return, we will return once again, we will return to the Malvinas," which was accompanied a gesture of approval by Menem and other authorities.

Kuwait To Pay Military Expenses in Gulf

PY1412120690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1251 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today said: "There are some factors keeping the dollar at a low exchange level, but this situation is not permanent because it will rise when we have a broader market opening and our imports grow." [passage omitted]

Speaking to Radio Mitre, Cavallo said that the Kuwaiti Government-in-exile has confirmed to Argentina they will defray all expenses incurred by the Argentine military mission to the Persian Gulf.

"I do not yet have any confirmation on whether the funds have already been transferred, but we were given assurances that Argentina will receive an advance on the funds that Kuwait is providing for the forces in the Persian Gulf," he said.

He said that if hostilities begin, the two Argentine ships will continue to control the commercial embargo on Iraq and keep the navigation routes open.

Cavallo Provides Details of London Agreement

PY1312145490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1839 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has stated that the agreement on guarantees for British investments signed with his British counterpart Douglas Hurd ensures "the repatriation of capital and the rendering of dividends." This has been made possible by the conditions of "legal security and economic stability" that prevail in the country today.

The Argentine foreign minister added that, since the reestablishment of relations with the United Kingdom, trade between the two countries "has been intensified." He added that imports have increased by five or six times in June 1990.

Cavallo today returned from London where, in addition to signing the agreement with his British counterpart, he discussed the diplomatic situation over the Malvinas Islands in the quest for a "rapprochement between the two countries in an effort to resume talks with the islanders."

Upon arriving at Ezeiza Airport, Cavallo said that the agreements reached with the United Kingdom in the quest for future British investments in the country are framed within the current law on foreign investments which provides "legal security" to foreign capital and economic stability through the plan implemented by the administration of President Carlos Menem.

According to Cavallo, since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations in March 1990, trade between Argentina and Great Britain "has been intensified" to such a level that "imports have increased by five or six times in June, July, and August," while exports to the United Kingdom "are around $30 to $50 million monthly."

He added: "There is an increasingly tighter and more intense relationship which we believe can be complemented with a flow of capital to our country." He said: "We want that capital to come from Europe, the United States, Japan, and anywhere in the world where there is capital for investment in our country."

Asked about the possibility that Argentine could be included in the Brady Plan, as announced yesterday by the president, Cavallo said that "it could be an adequate step" to "reduce" the current debit that amounts to some $50 billion, plus $7 billion in interests.

The plan implemented by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady allows debtor countries to implement adjustment policies and to reduce their respective debts by approximately 20 percent. So far only Costa Rica, Mexico, and Venezuela have benefited by that proposal and have managed to reduce their foreign debts by that percentage.

Regarding the Malvinas, the minister said that efforts are being made "so that dialogue may be achieved with the inhabitants of the islands," a preliminary step, in the Argentine Foreign Ministry strategy, to "discuss, with some possibility of success, the dispute over the sovereignty of the islands."

Regarding recent negotiations at the Uruguay Round of the GATT, held in Brussels, he minimized the results saying that "they have not failed," although "the agreement expected last week was not reached, but negotiations remained open" to enable the executive director of that international organization "to conduct consultations and to evaluate whether an agreement will be reached in the forthcoming meetings."

The foreign minister stated that the point considered "crucial" for Argentina is still the reduction of agricultural subsidies by great exporters such as the United States and EEC countries that "refuse to reduce them." He added: "Efforts will be made to reach an agreement on this matter with the United States."

He said that the meeting of foreign ministers of the seven Latin American countries that make up the Rio Group and the 12 EEC foreign ministers will take place this month in Rome, to discuss, among others, subjects related to the GATT.

Reportage on Cavallo's Visit to UK

WA1212171290

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Cavallo to the United Kingdom, including reports on his talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, please see the United Kingdom section of the 12 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Menem on Jurisdiction for Rebels; Union Attitudes

PY1312170090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1719 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stated that he headed a list of "people that were to have been killed" by those responsible for the 3 December rebellion, just as they killed "Major Pedernera and Lieutenant Colonel Pita with absolute impunity " after the "bandits" took over the Patricios Regiment.

The chief of state said this after dedicating a biotechnological industrial plant in Garin, in northern Buenos Aires Province.

The chief of state again indicated that he wants the military courts to try those who were responsible for the rebellion, but he made it clear that "the Supreme Court will decide the question of jurisdiction."

Menem also indicated that he will talk with Supreme Court Judge Julio Oyhanarte, who has announced that he is going to resign, to ask him "not to submit his resignation."

He added: "I am going to ask Julio Oyhanarte not to submit his resignation because he is a man of exceptional qualifications who merits the confidence of the Argentine community."

Menem pondered the attitude of the Metalworkers Union [UOM] in that it has accepted the Labor Ministry's salary proposal, and he maintained that "nothing less could be expected of men such as the leaders and members of such an important union who are deeply aware of the needs of their country."

Menem stressed: "We must not forget that there are leaders like Lorenzo Miguel and Luis Guerrero at the head of the UOM, and they think more than just of their union, they think of their own country. At times like this the Argentine Republic needs gestures of this type, not only from the labor sector, but also from the business sector."

The president announced that on 14 December he will participate in the UOM congress that will be held in Mar del Plata, saying that "I had already planned to participate with pleasure, but now with the decision that the union has taken I will do so with much more enthusiasm." [passage omitted]

Views Rebellion, Gulf, Pardons

PY1312204690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1012 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem has reported that "about 400 civilians and two businessman, a scrap iron dealer and the owner of a gas station network," were involved in the "Painted Faces" rebellion of 3 December 1990. He also pointed out that "there are trade union leaders" among the possible financiers of the uprising."

On another topic, the chief of state indicated that, if a military conflict breaks out in the Persian Gulf, "the countries that will fight are the United States, Egypt, Syria, and the UK," while Argentina—along with Italy and France—would be involved in "logistics."

Regarding the "Painted Faces" rebellion, Menem reiterated that the military men who participated in the bloody uprising "wanted to stage a coup d'etat to overthrow the government" and "planned to kill or assassinate with impunity, as they did with two men from their own forces."

Menem confirmed that his name was at the top of one Painted Faces' list while General Martin Bonnet, Army chief of staff, headed the list of military men to be killed. The next name on the military list was General Martin Balza, Army deputy chief of staff, who led the operation to repress the 1st Patricios Infantry Regiment in Palermo.

As for civilians who cooperated in the sedition, the president denied that entrepreneur Jorge Born was involved but made it clear that Judge Miguel Pons, who is handling the case, "already has the names of a scrap iron dealer and a gas station owner who supplied fuel" to the Painted Faces.

Menem also said that "there are trade union leaders" listed as possible financiers of the uprising.

In his opinion, episodes like the one that occurred on 3 December "will (?never) be repeated." Menem said: "These seditious military men have constantly failed. They surrendered in the Malvinas, Easter Week, Monte Caseros, Villa Martelli, and now. Some of them have surrendered five times. How are these men going to defend our fatherland?"

Continuing with the military issue, the chief of state reiterated that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin "was involved" in the uprising. Menem noted that "the Supreme Court will resolve the jurisdiction problem" between the civilian and military courts in determining the appropriate punishment for those involved in the rebellion.

Moving on to another issue, Menem said that he already has a date in mind on which he will announce his decision to pardon former commanders and Montoneros leader Mario Eduardo Firmenich, among others, although he only reiterated that he will make the announcement "before the end of the year."

Cavallo Defends Upcoming Pardons

PY1312231090 Madrid EFE in English 1652 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, Dec 13 (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo on Thursday [13 December] defended the imminent presidential pardon of military chiefs jailed for human rights abuses, saying the issue has been misunderstood abroad.

Cavallo told a news conference for members of the foreign press corp that the presidential move was aimed at "healing the wounds of the past and consolidating democracy." "A very different, and mistaken, evaluation of the pardon has been made abroad," he added.

He said the pardon was one of the issues which "complicate" Argentine foreign relations. "No doubt there will be adverse international reaction," he said.

President Carlos Menem announced Monday that he would go ahead with his plan to pardon two former military presidents, and an admiral and two police chiefs in jail for their role in the "Dirty War" against left-wing guerrillas in the 1970s. The most conservative estimates put at 9,000 the number of suspected leftists who were killed or "disappeared" in the security forces' repression.

Former military junta presidents Roberto Viola and Jorge Videla, ex-Navy chief and junta member Admiral Emilio Massera and two ex- Buenos Aires police chiefs are to be pardoned by the end of the year.

Menem is also expected to extend the pardon to former left-wing guerrilla leader Mario Firmenich, whose Montoneros group carried out most of the attacks that prompted the Dirty War crackdown. Firmenich is serving a 30-year jail term.

Four months after taking office last year, Menem freed hundreds of lower-ranking members of the security forces jailed or awaiting trial for human rights crimes or for their involvement in three military rebellions against his predecessor Raul Alfonsin.

Cavallo said Thursday that last year's pardons gained Menem the support of large sectors of the Armed Forces that was vital in putting down a one-day military uprising 10 days ago in which 14 people were killed. During the uprising, some 200 rebel soldiers took over several military installations, including the Army headquarters in the center of Buenos Aires, but they were flushed out by troops loyal to Menem by the day's end.

Menem on Country's Image, Military Rebellion

PY1312175690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1248 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has highlighted the fact that the 30-percent increase in value of foreign debt papers implies "an acknowledgment of Argentina that is a demonstration of confidence in our country, which has become much more credible."

After indicating that the increase "is enormous," he explained that "regrettably we will have to pay a little more, but that is a good thing because this may attract more investments and we will be able to reactivate the economy more quickly."

Menem stated that U.S. President George Bush's remarks indicating that "we are the world leader in economic reform, and privatization processes have evidently made them worth more—there is no doubt about it."

The chief of state said that those "who move within the publicity sector in Government House will take the necessary measures to inform the people so that they become aware of what is happening at this time in Argentina."

In an interview with Radio del Plata, Menem, always referring to the economic sector, reiterated that "the budget will be sent to Congress on 15 January." After asking himself: "When has this happened during the past few years?" he said that "as of January we will have a clear record of what we have, what we are going to spend it on, and the areas in which the government will be the most active."

He also acknowledged that, in setting its guidelines for the debtor countries, the IMF included Argentina in a list of excepted countries. He said: "The economy minister is in the United States working on this matter with

the IMF. Argentina owes the IMF, but it is also a shareholder, as it is with other international organizations."

Referring to the Painted Faces 3 December military rebellion, Menem confirmed that "they want to eliminate all obstacles on the way to an absolute dictatorship. Everything that meant freedom had to be eliminated. The list was long, and it was headed by the president, the three chiefs of staff, and the chief of the Joint Staff. There would have been a real bloodbath if these groups had been victorious."

The chief of state said: "The constitution that they wanted to impose, replacing the Constitution of 1853, was truly written by madmen. The preamble tells you everything, but the articles of that constitution should be read. It really has no equal."

"At least," Menem said, "I know of no magna charter of this type. This is the product of a driving madness, not only of these military men, but also of the civilians that advised them, who are even worse because it is presupposed that they have more freedom to express their thoughts than a military man who lives within a very rigid framework of rules."

When asked whether the Painted Faces will be tried by the courts or sent to a sanatorium, the president answered: "Both. It is necessary to try them and intern them during the course of their sentences, because they are individuals who cannot be left loose."

He also said: "There was no prior alert regarding the date and hour" of the military rebellion, although "they put out several alerts." Menem highlighted the fact that "the Armed Forces, with a new mentality and modality that includes the security forces, are prepared for this type of incident. At this time, for example, if any one tries something similar within two or three years the Armed Forces will be ready to act immediately and quickly."

He stressed that the problem caused by the decision of suppliers to not provide food to the Army and Navy "will be resolved quickly."

In a preamble to a year-end message, Menem said: "I hope God wants us to improve our performance in 1991, with a much stronger effort at reaching the most needy sectors now that we have this new proposal in the economic and political sectors, because we believe that efforts in the social sector will be significant toward the most needy in this Argentina that can, if we are good administrators, create the possibility for improvement in those sectors of the community."

He stressed that "on 24 December from the Antarctic and on 31 December I will lift my glass with 32 million other Argentines and toast our people, our fatherland, our people, and for a better Argentina."

At the end of the interview Vice President Eduardo Duhalde was asked the same question, and he expressed his hope that next year "the aspirations of many Argentines, who today have faith in the government and the future of the fatherland, come true. On lifting our glasses during these festivities we will be thinking about them," he concluded.

Appeals Court Backs Civilian Judge for Trials

PY1212210090 Buenos Aries BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Federal Appeals Court yesterday upheld Judge Miguel Pons's right to try the carapintada [Painted Faces] rebel officers involved in last week's uprising, rejecting Federal Appeals Court Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo's recommendation on Sunday [9 December] that the military try the military. Ocampo said he will appeal to the Supreme Court against the ruling.

The Appeals Court, presided over by Gustavo Mitchell, described the demarcation between military and civil justice for rebel officers and civilians respectively as "absurd" arguing that the rebellion was nothing less than an attack on the Constitution and the democratic order.

The Appeals Court ruling, passed unanimously, declared that "all protagonists, without distinction between civilians or the military," will be tried by Judge Miguel Pons. Only crimes committed within the military sphere will be court-martialled.

The ruling may have subordinated military justice to the civilian courts but the Armed Forces Surpreme Council will continue to cross-examine rebel officers until the Supreme Court resolves the issue of competence.

However, many expect the Supreme Court to rule in favour of the military backing President Carlos Menem's own wish that the carapintada rebels face the more severe sentences allowed a military tribunal.

Defense Minister Humberto Romero said the rebel officers should be court-martialled without being submitted to civilian justice.

Solicitor-General Oscar Roger confirmed yesterday that he will discuss with the Supreme Court Menem's wish that the rebel officers be tried before a military tribunal for the crime of "mutiny."

Pons has been involved in the rebellior case ever since the trouble began last week when carapintada rebels surrendered to him in the Port of Buenos Aires. He was also refused an inspection of the damaged Libertador Army Headquarters as well as files on various rebel officers by the military's Supreme Council.

As the Supreme Council were unwilling to co-operate, Pons presented the question of his right to try rebel officers before the Appeals Court last Friday.

The crimes listed by the Appeals Court yesterday would be enough to sentence the carapintada officers to life imprisonment. They include:

—displacing Armed Forces authority by taking the Libertador Army Headquarters.
—usurping and damaging military property
—stealing weapons
—breaking public peace and security
—injuring and endangering the lives of citizens including health workers and journalists
—firing on Government House

Armed Forces Supreme Council spokesman Colonel Felix Isla Rodriguez also stated that the rebel leaders would be sentenced "before the end of the year," but warned of "some delays" as he claimed new evidence pointing at wider involvement had come to light.

The Supreme Council cross-examined Lieutenant-Colonel Angel Daniel Leon and Major Hector Romero Mundani yesterday for their part in the uprising. Lieutenant-Colonel Oscar Raul Tevere and Major Pedro Mercado will be tried today.

Supreme Court To Decide Jurisdiction

PY1212214090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Dec 90 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—A resolution to the squabble between civilian and military justice over who has the right to try the carapintada [Painted Faces] rebel officers was left in the hands of the Supreme Court yesterday, the final court of appeal.

Judge Miguel Pons, who has been trying Coast Guards [as published] and civilians involved in last week's uprising, believes that the trial of the military rebels comes under his jurisdiction according to the defence of democracy law. The Armed Forces Supreme Council, inclined to talk of the rebellion in terms of "mutiny", disagrees.

The holdup in proceedings against the carapintada rebels led Justice Undersecretary Cesar Arias to state yesterday that the sentencing of rebel officers was unlikely before "the end of the month," contradicting earlier government statements that the trial of rebel officers would be over before the new year.

President Carlos Menem came down clearly on the side of military justice for the carapintada rebels yesterday, stating that a court- martial would produce "more severe sentences, more quickly."

Menem lamented the Federal Appeals Court decision to uphold Pons' jurisdiction over the rebel officers and confirmed that he had ordered Solicitor-General Oscar Roger to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

"It's not that I don't have any confidence in civilian justice," said the President "but you must bear in mind the distinct differences between military and civilian justice."

While the military's Supreme Council was hearing evidence yesterday morning, Pons called on the Council for the third time in a week. He ordered the Council to cease proceedings after his jurisdiction was upheld by the Federal Appeals Court on Monday.

The Council continued its proceedings despite Pons' protests and heard Major Jorge Mones Ruiz, who was involved in capturing the Patricios Infantry barracks last week, testify.

Pons also called on Defence Minister Humberto Romero to order Army Chief-of-Staff Martin Bonnet to authorize documents in connection with the rebel officers, as well as an inspection to assess the damage to the Libertador building.

The government is sending evidence to Pons in connection with civilians involved in the rebellion, whom government sources said would be arrested sometime last night. The sources refused to name the civilians, stating that they did not wish to hamper the operation to arrest them.

Supreme Council spokesman Colonel Felix Isla Rodriguez did not comment on the tussle between civil and military justice but confirmed the Council's resolution to appeal against the Appeals Court ruling.

A Defense Ministry spokesman stated that the Supreme Council had "no fixed terms" for the trial of the carapintada rebels but added that the Council was "working at a fast pace as befits military justice." But the spokesman denied that the Supreme Council had a fixed date by which to pass sentence on the officers who led the rebellion.

Justice Undersecretary Cesar Arias confirmed yesterday that the damage caused by the carapintada uprising ran to nearly a million dollars and said: "Those responsible will have to pay for the damages."

Reliable sources said yesterday that a plan had been found at an artillery unit here in the city with the intention of assassinating Bonnet along with Generals Martin Balza and Mario Condido Diaz as well as further plans to "neutralize" other high-ranking officers.

Well-known businesswoman Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat said yesterday that she was skeptical of alleged finance afforded the carapintada rebels by the business community. "I don't believe the business community, who are helping the government to reform the country, would finance a rebellion," she said.

Menem denied that the government ever supsected the firm Bunge & Born of financing the rebels. He added that the large quantity of dollars in the rebel's possession "could have come from the Army or the state."

Armed Forces Joint Chiefs-of-Staff head Admiral Emilio Osses said yesterday that last week's carapintada uprising was "a circumstantial problem," which would be resolved by the Armed Forces restructuring plan.

Daily Publishes Constitutional Proposal

PY1312155490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1242 GMT 13 Dec 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA)—According to information published here today, the basic proposals for a constitutional statute raised by the Army's Painted Faces sector would feature a great concentration of power in the figure of the president of the nation, the creation of revolutionary courts entitled to apply the death penalty, and the suspension of political and trade union activities in the country.

The extensive statute that is published today by the morning newspaper "AMBITO FINANCIERO" and that was drawn up by the Army sector that recently rebelled, "will suspend the national Constitution" and try those responsible for the integral decadence of the Republic" through the "ad hoc" creation of a revolutionary court martial.

Although the constitutional statute would maintain the division of branches, it would replace the legislative branch by a so-called Federal State Council [Consejo Federal de Estado], whose members would for the most part be elected by the president of the nation.

Under the new statute, the PEN [National Executive Branch] head would have "absolute and full jurisdiction over all government actions" as well as "over the development, behavior, and responsibility of the national, provincial, and municipal authorities."

The statute states that "within five years" a "general constituent congress will be called which, with full powers, will decide with respect to the nation's final political organization and the national constitution."

The judicial branch would act through "the supreme court of justice, the court of appeals, and lower courts," whose members would for the most part be appointed by the president.

The statute announces that "all political and trade union activities in the entire national territory" would be suspended, and that it would declare "terminated, dissolved or intervened the organizations, entities, and similar associations engaged in such activities."

After describing strikes as "sabotage actions," in which those responsible would be tried by the revolutionary court, the statute adds: "The intervened trade union organizations will be standardized when the labor organization law is promulgated."

The revolutionary court martial whose creation is proposed would try, even retroactively, "those responsible for the integral decadence of the Republic and its institutions." In this regard, the revolutionary court martial foresees the death penalty as the maximum punishment.

The statute contemplates the possibility of bestowing extraordinary powers or the sum of public power upon the president of the nation that, "in extremely grave cases," would be bestowed upon him by the Federal State Council (the new executive branch).

The statute makes it clear, however, that, during the period of effectiveness of those powers, "efforts will be made to prevent the life, the honor, and the properties of the inhabitants of the Republic from being at the mercy of the government or any person."

In addition, "the rights and freedom consecrated" by the statute, "without any distinction as to nationality, will only be limited by the nation's superior interest." The statute states that "no individual right will be opposed to the compliance with the revolutionary principles and tenets."

The text of the 118-page, typewritten statute, comprises 461 articles and includes the regulation of usually non-constitutional issues such as those concerning sports and entertainment by proposing, among other points, "the absolute eradication of vice and games of chance."

The statute also establishes that the Argentine state "will not admit the establishment of religions [cultos]." In this regard, the statute establishes the Armed Forces as the ones responsible for "guaranteeing the compliance with the present constitutional statute that supports the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion [culto]."

According to this concept, all Armed Forces personnel, with the express exception of recruits, must "profess the Christian faith" while moral and doctrine, and intellectual, scientific, and cultural expressions "will be based on inherent Christian principles."

In this regard, the statute adds that "the law will see to it that education at all levels and in every order will be imparted by unrestrictedly applying" the aforementioned tenet.

The statute also establishes that "there must be no illiterates in the Argentine nation" although it considers secondary and university education as "optional."

The statute maintains the principle of "the people's sovereignty" and rejects "blood or birth privileges" as well as the titles of the nobility" as "all inhabitants are equal before the law" and equality "is the basis for taxation and public burden."

The statute expresses categorical rejection of "any interference and any antinational interest" in government issues and, in this regard, it proposes "the basic right of the Republic and its sovereign power to fully exercise its self-determination in handling" these issues.

The statute establishes the family as "society's basic and fundamental cell" and, in this regard, it only admits divorce "as the last justifiable legal and human alternative" to prevent it from producing "grave effects on the family institution."

The statute attaches special importance to calling plebiscites as a "decisive factor with respect to the behavior of national authorities."

The statute also establishes that the government must be informed of the transaction of properties conducted by officials of former administrations.

Civilians Reportedly Involved in Rebellion Arrested

PY1312172890 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2335 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Villaguay, Entre Rios, 12 Dec (NA)—Seven political leaders belonging to a group called 2 April [2 de Abril], which is allegedly linked to Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, are presumably under detention in the 21st Battalion of the Border Guard, which is based in the city of Concepcion del Uruguay. These politicians are accused of giving "logistical and economic support" to the troops that rebelled here last week.

These leaders are presumably responsible for giving fuel and money to members of this city's regiment, from where five tanks and five Army trucks departed on 3 December to join the rebel troops that had taken several important points in Buenos Aires.

Border Police officers and NCO's based in Concepcion del Uruguay raided 10 premises in downtown Villaguay and a weekend residence on the city's outskirts on 11 and 12 December and arrested the seven nationalist leaders.

Federal Judge Hector Neira, who requested authority to try 25 NCO's who participated in the rebellion in Entre Rios and who are now under arrest in the Magdalena Prison, signed the orders for the raids and he will now hear the evidence of those people.

Moreover, a confusing situation has arisen because it is not officially known where the politicians are being held and the Border Police personnel have not confirmed or denied that they are being held in the Border Police base in Concepcion del Uruguay.

The Border Police have evidence that presumably involves the arrested politicians in the 3 December rebellion, and they are considered responsible for having given "logistical" support to the Painted Faces military men.

Meanwhile, 300 persons gathered outside the last raided premises in the downtown area of this city and when the Border Police took the arrested person away these people shouted "Up Against the Wall," thus showing their support for the Border Guards.

Contractors Discontinue Food Supplies to Military

PY1312010090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2211 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)—The Argentine Union of State Suppliers (UAPE) has announced that food suppliers have discontinued supplies to the Army and the Navy because of a lack of payment.

The Army's debt reportedly stands at $15 million and the Navy's at $7 million. They both have unpaid bills dating back to August.

The UAPE has sent a letter to Defense Minister Humberto Romero noting that "suppliers have been put on the brink of a financial crisis; consequently, they had to discontinue their supplies."

Senate Approves Armed Forces Promotions

PY1312213890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Dec 90 p 11

[Text] (DYN)—In a closed-door session yesterday, the Senate approved the promotions of 170 high-ranking Armed Forces officers and the appointments of 51 members of the diplomatic corps. The brigadier-generals promoted to major-generals are: joint high command deputy chief Martin Balza, Jose Luis Torres, Horacio Canestro, Mario Candido Diaz and Hugo Sabino Fernandez.

Bolivia

Antiterrorist 'Death Squad' Reportedly Appears

PY1412023490 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] In the wake of recent events surrounding the terrorist group known as the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission, CNPZ, which has apparently been dismantled with the death of its principal leaders, another group with the same irregular characteristics has surfaced. This group is a self-styled death squad bearing the name of General Joaquin Zenteno Anaya. According to a communique carried in today's newspapers, it views itself as an antiterrorist group.

The appearance of this irregular group has caused alarm among the population and, of course, in top government circles. President Jaime Paz Zamora said the people will have to fend for themselves against violence and noted that these irregular groups project a bad image of the country abroad. [recorded passage indistinct]

General Jorge Moreira Rojas, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has asked the people to take it easy. He asserted that the Armed Forces will evaluate and investigate the origin of the latest communique, which was published in the press. [recorded passage indistinct]

President Issues Warning to Groups

PY1412032090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] At the Colonel Gualberto Villarroel Military College today, President Jaime Paz Zamora made comments to the media on the announced creation of violent and terrorist groups. President Paz, in addition to appealing to Bolivian citizens to unite and respect democracy, noted that Bolivia is not prepared for violence because it has always stood out as a peaceful and tranquil country in the Latin American context. Commenting on this issue, he said:

[Begin recording] [Paz] Those who trigger violence in our country have a great responsibility. Second, all Bolivians must firmly unite against violence. Third, all Bolivians, including the various sectors of the media, must act in a way that will not promote violence nor create a situation that will in one way or another promote violence. Regarding the communique we learned about this morning, I want to reiterate that, in my opinion, the defense of human rights—as I stated at the closure of the ALDHU [Latin American Human Rights Association] meeting—entails the defense of and unrestricted respect for democracy as a system.

Therefore, in my capacity as president of the Republic, I will be equally stern with any group that exercises illegal or anticonstitutional violence within the national territory, no matter where it may come from or what excuse it uses to justify itself. This is my point of view, and I believe that all Bolivians will fully agree. The important thing that should be pointed out is that the great responsibility is on those who are mistakenly and evilly trying to spark violence in our country.

Fortunately, Bolivia has never accepted this type of violence. Culturally speaking, Bolivia is not prepared for this type of violence, and this has been reflected throughout our republican history. Every time someone has tried to carry out any kind of terrorist violence, he has not received the support of the Bolivian people. Quite the contrary, he has found himself isolated. If the people have not rejected violence, they have at least shown what I would call a mortal indifference.

This is my point of view, and I am appealing to the Bolivian people so that our country will by no means support an escalation of violence. I reiterate—not critically but rather with the fraternal spirit of a Bolivian citizen—the important role which, in my opinion, the media plays in helping the Bolivian people to pursue the right path. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Does the establishment of violent and terrorist groups jeopardize the investment of capital?

[Paz] Without a doubt they can affect it. I would also tell the ordinary men on the street that it will jeopardize their job opportunities. In other words, for those who carry out violence in the name of life, health, and education for the Bolivian people, for their human rights, the only thing they could manage to do is leave the Bolivian people without the jobs they need, because those jobs are directly linked to the investment of capital in Bolivia.

Now then, I hope this is not their exact intention. The groups that carry out this violence could be doing it to prevent the Bolivian people from benefiting from the investment of capital and, in turn, benefiting from their development toward the future. In other words, their objective could be to generate poverty, chaos, and a lack of development, which are absolutely antinational objectives.

Because we must not conceal anything from each other, I want to say clearly that there are people who use violence and people who take advantage of those who use violence with antinational purposes. I want to tell those two groups that they will both be punished with the full force of the law; we are investigating those who plant bombs and those who order that bombs be planted, those who kill and those who give the orders to kill. The Bolivian people will find out who they are some day; they will get to know them directly and will severely judge them because they have been risking the lives, ideals, and feelings of very young Bolivian citizens who are mistakenly led into adventures of this nature against the country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Capobianco Comments on CNPZ Issue, Terrorism

PY1212165490 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Comments by Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Guillermo Capobianco, to unidentified reporters after testifying for the second day before the Chamber of Deputies on the 5 December police operation in which kidnapped Coca-Cola manager Jorge Lonsdale and three members of the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission were killed—recorded]

[Text] [Capobianco] This is a very important democratic act. This democratic behavior must be maintained and developed. Here, at the Chamber of Deputies, which is a fundamental institution of the Republic, issues are debated, explanations are offered, and situations are clarified in a democratic, peaceful way through dialogue. This is why I said in my speech yesterday that there must be an end to this confrontation, which we did not seek. This confrontation has extremely conservative characteristics. When M-19—one of the oldest organizations in the armed fight in Latin America—wins Constituent Assembly elections in its country, and democracy is being consolidated around the world as the fundamental system for all countries, we deem it extremely conservative for irregular groups to declare their authority to take up arms. Against whom? Against the Bolivian people? Do we not have freedom in the country and a state of law? Are we not investigating excesses that may have occurred inside the state security organizations? Will we

not punish these excesses? This is why I insist that this confrontation is sterile; it has no contents and no historical significance.

I believe the only way to end this absurd confrontation is to increasingly strengthen our democracy. The state's security organizations should become more and more efficient. Society and the democratic state must be increasingly more participatory, much more free, and much more pluralistic. This is the only way we can stop a potential spiral of violence. Because I have the impression that some people—very few, of course—want a witch hunt, I want to emphatically state that we are not giving in to this siren's song. We are going to continue our task with the same firmness, but without this severe pressure.

[Unidentified reporter] The police chief has stated that there is discontent among the police because of the communique.

[Capobianco] I have not received that information. I will receive it through the appropriate institutional channels, and when I receive it and learn its contents, I can give you an opinion.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, [passage indistinct] the fourth man, [Police Chief] General Carvajal says it is not the exclusive responsibility of the police, that it is the responsibility....

[Capobianco, interrupting] You asked me the same question yesterday with a another journalist....

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] No, this afternoon he said....

[Capobianco, continuing] ...that is why I say the same thing that I told you yesterday: Look at the communique yourself.

[Reporter] Has anything turned up on the bomb or dynamite that exploded last night?

[Capobianco] Presumably it was the same terrorist group, but I am going to allow myself the benefit of the doubt because I do not discard the possibility that there are individuals—a very few—who are interested in a witch hunt in this country, in setting off firecrackers so the security organizations can pursue the CNPZ [Nestor Paz Zamora Commission]. We are not going to do this. We are going to establish the exact origin of that explosion. It could be an antidemocratic provocation that is not necessarily attributable to the CNPZ; it could have been carried out by other individuals. Therefore, we must act very cautiously.

[Reporter] What other individuals?

[Capobianco] Other individuals? Well, others.

[Reporter] From what sector, what ideology?

[Capobianco] Others.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Capobianco] Others.

[Reporter] Are Communist Party leaders, (?who have been raided), involved?

[Capobianco] No way. I believe that the leader—Salas [not further identified], is it not—has been excessively restless, but the leader Salas has not been arrested. We have no accusations against the Communist Party. I repeat that up to yesterday, all the information I had received is that there is total calm.

President Paz Defends Cabinet, Denies Changes

PY1412015090 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Interview with President Jaime Paz Zamora by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted including indistinct portions]

[Paz Zamora] No, that is nonsense spread by the opposition and by bad Bolivian citizens who believe Bolivia will be chronically plagued by instability. I think I belong to these young men who have just graduated, who were born in times of stability, and who see stability as a normal condition.

I am proud to preside over a cabinet that has been stable for the longest period of time in Bolivian history since 1825. It is the most stable cabinet of modern, democratic Bolivia. What I mean is that I do not see a need for any immediate cabinet changes. If I believe there is a need for a change, however, I will make it in a natural way, because if a cabinet change is necessary it must be done. But let me tell you that at this moment I see no need for it; I see no need for a cabinet change. All the ministers are performing well. It is a homogeneous team. As for the interior minister, you have seen how the entire cabinet sent him a letter of support for his performance. It is a very united, very homogeneous, very coherent, and—I would say—very capable cabinet. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Commander Warns of Arms Race

PY1312223090 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Nov 90 p 5

[Text] General Jorge Moreira, Armed Forces commander in chief, has stated that the Armed Forces have called for a reduction of weapons in the area to maintain peace in the region and to prevent future conflagrations.

Speaking for the Armed Forces, Moreira expressed his concern over the arms race that has begun in Latin America, in which Chile is an active participant.

"There will have to be a reduction of weapons in some countries, speaking about Latin America," he said. He also mentioned that Chile and Brazil are leading the race.

He explained that some nations, such as Bolivia, do not need to reduce their weapons because their limitations are so great that the weapons they do possess are not a threat to anyone.

"They are pretty well advanced in the scientific and technological sectors. In the case of Chile, that has been the case for some two decades now. We are aware that Chile makes $500 million [time period not specified] in the field of weapons exports," he said.

Chile recently revealed that it possesses highly sophisticated weapons, and this has been linked to that country's plan to become preeminent in the field.

Several Latin American governments—especially their military chiefs—have expressed their concern and have accused Chile of heading for dangerous territory which could lead to a difficult situation for the region.

The military chief noted: "I believe that it is an obligation of governments—not only in Bolivia, but in all Latin American countries—because while some of us are trying to integrate—to implement true integration and development—other countries are entering an arms race."

He asked international organizations to assume their responsibility and consider the topic of the arms race in Latin America.

Communist Party Urges People To Mobilize

PY1312222990 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 26 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] On 25 November the Bolivian Communist Party [PCB] closed its Sixth National Congress for Unity and Renewal. More than 500 delegates from all over the nation approved a political document that calls for leftist unity and the mobilization of the peasant workers and the impoverished class to improve their living conditions.

The document calls on the grass roots to make the necessary efforts to achieve the unity of the popular forces aimed at creating a social bloc that will present an alternative to the oligarchy.

The congress agreed to apoint Oscar Salas, Adalberto Kuajara, Walter Morales, and Jose Luis Nunez del Prado the main leaders of the new PCB Central Committee.

At the closing ceremony held at the Miraflores Theater, Salas, a member of the PCB leadership, said: "We Communists will make every effort to encourage the labor sector, peasants, and other people's sectors to struggle for the country's economic independence to generate the conditions for the creation of an industrial base."

Salas added: "Bolivia depends on international charity, drug trafficking, smuggling, and industrial trade. We have the moral and political obligation to change their structures."

On 26 November another PCB faction headed by Simon Reyes and Marcos Domic began discussing the Bolivian socioeconomic problems during the 10th Regular Regional Congress.

This faction announced that its national congress will be held in December.

In a regional meeting the communists from La Paz will draft a proposal designed to help meet the people's demands, to defend their right to work and to life, and to defend national sovereignty and dignity.

German Cooperation for Development Projects

PY1312215790 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Nov 90 p 5

[Excerpt] The governments of Bolivia and Federal Germany have concluded their negotiations by signing an agreement on financial and technical cooperation. The agreement involves the implementation of a series of projects of national interest for an estimated 156 million Deutsche mark [DM]. Financial cooperation will total DM126 million, and technical cooperation will total DM30 million.

The Notes of Mutual Concessions [Notas Reversales] signed at the Bolivian Foreign Ministry between Dr. Jorge Soruco, under secretary for bilateral policy [title as published], and German Ambassador to Bolivia Dr. Hermann Saumweber marked the end of a visit by a German cooperation mission. The mission has been in Bolivia for the past few weeks to conclude the agreement.

The projects primarily involve the areas of basic infrastructure, mining, environment, drinking water, and irrigation in "needy and economically depressed" regions. [passage omitted]

Officers Linked to Traffickers Reportedly Rehired

PY1312203590 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Police Chief Felipe Carvajal and officials of the Patriotic Accord have reportedly reincorporated police officers who purportedly were involved in drug trafficking and [words indistinct].

Here is the list of officers that Police Chief General Felipe Carvajal has reincorporated into the force:

Lieutenant Colonel Victor Fernandez, who reincorporated after seriously violating the internal police regulations.

Major (Jose Hos), brother-in-law of Jose Parada, who was fired on three occasions for rape and for having violated Article 65 and is now with the Sucre police.

Major Lucio Benavides Lafuente, who was fired for violating Article 75 of internal police regulations and who is now on the force in Tarija.

Major (Daniel Ecalar Ramallo) fired for desertion and who is now with the Tarija police.

Major Adalberto Torres who was fired for being involved in drug trafficking and was subsequently reincorporated and given a scholarship in Brazil representing Bolivian police.

Major Walter Campos Lopez, who was fired for being involved in drug trafficking and who is now [words indistinct]. Captain Carlos Rodriguez Ortega, who was fired for being involved in drug trafficking and [words indistinct].

Lieutenant [given name indistinct] (?Aguado Pacheco), who was fired on three occasions and is now with the Potosi police.

Captian (Tito Detela), who was fired for being involved in drug trafficking and who is now posted at the [place name indistinct] customs post.

Colonel Victor Montano Vizcarra, who was fired for his involvement in drug trafficking and is now with the Trinidad police.

Major David Amurrio Olmos, who was fired for his involvement in drug trafficking and who is now with the Cobija police.

Major Jaime Vaca, alias El Gordo [Fatty], who was fired for his involvement in drug trafficking and who is now posted to customs headquarters.

Lieutenant Colonel Luis Leite, who was fired for his involvement in drug trafficking and who was subsequently reincorporated and given a scholarship in Brazil.

Brazil

Civil, Military Police Clash in Brasilia

PY1312142290 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] An incident between civil police and military police in Brasilia has ended in a shoot-out. Six soldiers and policemen were wounded, and even a military police horse was shot. The civil policemen, who have been on strike for 22 days, were staging a march in front of the security secretariat demanding higher salaries.

The military police were observing the march, and the conflict broke out for reasons that have not as yet been established. Governor Vanderley Vallin and Security Secretary (Geraldo Chaves) met with Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho after the incident. They asked for the cancellation of Provisional Measure 106, which suspended extra payments on special operations.

(Chaves) said that the Justice Minister has guaranteed that the issue will be solved rapidly and satisfactorily.

[Begin recording] [(Chaves)] The police still have confidence in Minister Passarinho, who promised that there will be a satisfactory solution. The solution is not the result of today's events because it was already being devised. It was....

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] But the solution was stagnated by bureaucracy....

[(Chaves)] It was not stagnated. It went through the bureaucratic steps, and we know that bureaucracy takes time. [end recording]

(Chaves) said that the security secretariat service filmed the incident and that the tape will be used for the investigation into the armed clash between the military police and the striking civil policemen.

Military Personnel Restless Over Low Salaries

PY1212213990 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—The low salaries paid to military personnel are creating a tense situation in the Armed Forces. In the opinion of military authorities there are no signs of insubordination, in private conversations, however, a climate of discontent can be noticed. According to senior officers, worse than the problem of low salaries—a sacrifice that is tolerable in times of crisis—is the problem of salary differences among the branches of government. They believe that it is acceptable for a justice in the judiciary branch to make more money than a general, but there is no justification for a court clerk at the Supreme Court, for instance, to earn three times as much as an employee doing the same job at the Aeronautics Ministry.

To a restricted circle, Navy Minister Admiral Mario Cesar Flores said recently: "It hurts us when the Treasury that is so severe with military personnel pays such generous salaries to personnel of the legislative, the judiciary, and even sometimes the executive branches."

Even in the face of such discontent, the military ministers have agreed to let the EMFA [Armed Forces Joint Staff] alone make pronouncements on salaries. They also consider that the political exploitation of the situation is much greater than what is warranted by the situation at the barracks. Examples of this can be found in the election of Reserve Captain Jair Bolsonaro as Federal Deputy for the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] of Rio de Janeiro, and the demonstrations [not further identified] at the Military Club.

Recently, Army Minister General Carlos Tinoco called the Army High Command to recommend that it should try to keep the bases calm about the salary problem. He recognized that the situation of the troops is regrettable, and talked about the difficult situation faced by the government in holding down inflation.

The salary readjustment that the government will determine next week will be granted in January. It is causing

expectations because the 30-percent bonus granted in September has been erased by the inflation of the last three months—48.8 percent by the IPC [Consumer Price Index] calculated by the IBGE [Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute]. Four-star generals (Army general, admiral, and lieutenant brigadier) earn today a gross salary of 326,000 cruzeiros after 40 years of military career, including all the training courses.

Reserve personnel have most strongly protested the deterioration of the purchasing power of salaries (which runs at approximately 200 percent, according to EMFA [Armed Forces Staff] sources). During a meeting at the military club 15 days ago—which was considered a historical meeting—some 1,000 club members addressed the salary matter exclusively. During the meeting, the reserve military men decided to take legal action to demand that the salary of a four-star general should be made equal to those of Superior Military Tribunal [STM] members, which now stand at about 700,000 cruzeiros.

On-duty military men have not publicly criticized low salaries to avoid punishment. At least two military ministers and a civilian minister, however, have publicly criticized the deterioration of salaries. EMFA chief General Jonas Correa said in July that "even though the Economy Ministry has frozen salaries; school fees, transportation fares, and food and medicine prices continue to increase." Aeronautics Minister Brigadier Socrates Monteiro two months ago said that the salary situation of the Armed Forces is "distressing."

Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho, currently a senator on leave and a retired Army colonel, said on 29 November that he believed that the salary demands of military men are just. Passarinho recalled that while private sector workers enjoy partial recovery of the inflationary deterioration of salaries, military and civil public servants have to wait for the base date of January.

Former justice minister Saulo Ramos was contracted to act on behalf of the Military Club. He reported yesterday that he will take legal action before the end of the year. If the courts grant his request, all military men will benefit because all salaries are calculated as a percentage of a four-star general salary. This will cause an across-the-board increase in the three branches. In this case, only the recruits, who get paid according to special regulations, will not get the increase (which will be about 120 percent, the difference between the salaries earned by four-star generals and STM members).

Money Woes Affect Capabilities

PY1312023090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—The modernization plans of the Armed Forces have been hit hard by the economic crisis in recent years. This year the three military ministries were forced to cancel courses and scholarships for officers to comply with the policy of keeping expenditures down. The shortage of resources reached such a point that the Army and Aeronautics Ministries had to reduce activities in their units by half on some weekdays to cut down on food expenses.

Last week the Aeronautics Ministry even adopted the part-time schedule in its administrative office, with only essential personnel working in the mornings. This year the Army had to advance the discharge date for conscripts—draftees called up every year to perform their mandatory military service—by 30 days to reduce expenditures for food and energy.

The Army had anticipated that situation. In August last year, General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, who was Army minister at the time, submitted two reports—one to President Jose Sarney and another to Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu—warning that the 363.811 million new cruzados allocated in the 1990 budget would not even be enough to maintain an adequate level of activity in the Army. The reports noted that the lack of resources would make it impossible to buy uniforms for 1991 draftees and would also force the cancellation of maneuvers during that year. To maintain an adequate level of activity, the Army needs a total budget of 1,865,022,000 new cruzados. The Army Minister affirmed in the reports that the Army "has seen its operational capability seriously curtailed to the point that it will be unable to respond rapidly, in terms of time and location, even in emergency situations."

Committee Rejects Idea of IAEA Oversight

PY1312020090 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 90 p A 90

[Text] Brasilia—Senator Severo Gomes, spokesman for the Congressional Investigative Committee (CPI) that is looking into the parallel nuclear program, wants to prevent the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from overseeing Brazilian nuclear activities. This proposal is included in a report prepared by Gomes on which the CPI will vote on today. The joint declaration on nuclear policy signed on 28 November by Presidents Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil and Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina provides for IAEA approval of a future nuclear agreement between the two countries.

Gomes wants to prevent this oversight function through a bill he will submit today to the CPI. "If Congress does not approve this bill but approves the agreement between Brazil and Argentina, the IAEA will have access to all the knowledge we have acquired in the nuclear sector," he said. If Gomes' bill is passed, the IAEA will be allowed to oversee only the activities included in the Brazilian-German nuclear agreement signed in 1975.

Gomes wants to prevent countries that have already developed nuclear energy from creating obstacles to limit Brazil's access to more technology.

Acre Unionists Still Receiving Death Threats

PY1312235090 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 90 p A 13

[Report by Emanuel Neri]

[Text] Almost two years after the murder of union leader and ecologist Chico Mendes, rural union leaders from Acre are still receiving threats. This information was released yesterday at a meeting of the Sao Paulo Bar Association (OAB) by Osmarino Amancio Rodrigues, 33, secretary general of the National Council of Rubber Tappers. He released copies of death threats sent to him and three other union leaders.

Amancio Rodrigues said his house in Brasileia (142 km southwest of Rio Branco) was surrounded by gunmen on 1 December. He said one of the people responsible for the threats is Gentil Alves da Silva, alias "Tilin," the son of Alvarino Alves da Silva, who has been accused of instigating the murder of Chico Mendes. Amancio Rodrigues said two eyewitnesses who saw "Tilin" near his house will testify within the next few days. At the request of the Brasileia police chief, however, he declined to release their names. Alvarino Alves is reportedly at large. Darli Alves da Silva, (Alvarino's brother), and his son Darci—who have also been accused –are under arrest and will be tried on 12 December.

Chico Mendes was murdered on 11 December 1988. Amancio Rodrigues has said that there are two other people involved in the crime, including businessman Joao Branco, who was the UDR [Rural Democratic Union] leader in Acre and a shareholder in the newspaper O RIO BRANCO. FOLHA was unable to contact Branco yesterday, and "Tilin" was not found either.

Amancio Rodrigues accused three other people of being involved in crimes against union leaders in Acre: Farm owner Crispin Reis, who was arrested for the death of Jesus Matias in 1982; State Deputy Joao Tezza (Liberal Party); and Federal Deputy Narciso Mendes (Liberal Front Party). Reis and Mendes could not be contacted, while Tezza said: "I have never even thought about killing anyone."

The union leader released copies of the three notes threatening him and the other union leaders. The first was found on 4 November near the house of union leader Abraao dos Santos Cardoso in Brasileia. The following day, another letter was left in front of the town's union office. The last message was found at the house of the acting president of the Brasileia union.

Osmarino and Federal Police Chief Romeu Tuma yesterday participated in a debate on violence in this sector at the Goethe Institute.

Chile

Communist Party Militant Explains Resignation

PY1212202590 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT Dec 90

[Text] Today dissident militant Antonio Leal submitted his resignation to the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] in a 17-page letter addressed to Secretary General Volodia Teitelboim.

Leal explains that after 16 years of an active militancy, he decided to leave because he believes the PCCh has strayed from its traditions and has adopted a conservative attitude that maintains outdated dogmas.

Leal explained that one of his main disagreements refers to the democratic centralism which, in his opinion, helps to maintain a closed organization and thus prevents public debate.

[Begin Leal recording] I believe that the country now needs to overcome these organizational forms and to develop an open, transparent, credible, worldly party, in which the dogmas of the past are not considered sacred. [end recording]

Antonio Leal said that another aspect that prevents the renewal of the PCCh is its adherence to the Marxist-Leninist philosophy which, he said, is an obsolete theory and an extremely mistaken point of view that was imposed on the communist militants in the past.

He also criticized the stance of the PCCh regarding Gorbachev's perestroyka, which is interpreted as a return to capitalism.

In his letter to Teitelboim, Leal also points out the danger of maintaining the policy of a military force within the party. Leal said that the PCCh still does not understand that insisting on a militarist policy has divided the leftists in the past, thus weakening their presence in society.

Antonio Leal ends by stating that this party continues to develop its military force, seeking the failure of the transition process. The party believes that this failure would be an opportunity to disrupt the current political panorama.

PCCh Reiterates Call for Pinochet To Resign

PY1312200790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] A few days before the completion of one year of democratic government, the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has said that the citizenry has become acquainted with the damage that the former administration caused to the Armed Forces, especially the Army.

The PCCh stresses that generals, colonels, and high-ranking Army officers seem to be involved in human rights violations and irregular property sales.

In the Communists' opinion, all this is just a sign of the corruption that prevailed during the past regime. According to the Communists, not even the family of the Army commander in chief himself escaped such corruption.

The members of the Marxist party again reiterated their call for General Pinochet to resign from his post of Army commander in chief, asserting that Pinochet's resignation would guarantee an in-depth and impartial investigation into all the events that occurred under his rule.

Poll Shows Increased Support for President

PY1312002090 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] A recent poll has revealed that terrorism and crime are the problems that most concern the population. President Aylwin's work was viewed favorably by 67.2 percent of those polled. This figure is higher than the percentage of support he received in the elections.

The poll was taken by the Institute for New Chile, and (Lincoyan Zepeda), executive secretary of the organization, released the results. The poll took the opinions of 700 people in greater Santiago.

Regarding the economic situation, 49.2 percent of those polled said it was average to poor or poor. This percentage, however, was down almost 10 percent from September. The general evaluation of the situation in the areas of health, education, housing, and economy has also improved.

As for terrorism, 54.7 of those polled believe it has intensified. This percentage has practically doubled since September. The people polled also said that crime is a serious problem.

Senator Says Groups Led by Former CNI Agents

PY1212190590 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Christian Democratic Party Senator Jorge Lavandero has said that the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] and the Manuel Lautaro groups, which advocate violence, are currently led by former agents of the dissolved National Intelligence Center [CNI].

Speaking of the bloody and fatal attack perpetrated against the Talca Museum, Lavandero said that these groups do not have the right to use the word patriotic because they represent now a distorted image of the extreme left position following their infiltration some months ago.

Former CNI Agent Arrested, Linked to Murders

PY1412014090 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpt] (Jorge Vargas Doria), a former agent for the National Information Center, was arrested today by order of Judge Aquiles Rojas, who is investigating the case of the professionals who were kidnapped and murdered a few hours after the attack on General Augusto Pinochet in September 1986.

Vargas, currently a member of the Army Intelligence Department, DINE, was recognized today by relatives and neighbors of murdered journalist Jose Carrasco. It has been learned that they may be able to identify the group of men who kidnapped Carrasco on 8 September 1986. Ivan Carrasco—the victim's son—his wife, and Hernan Cardemil, a neighbor, were among the people who identified him. It is not known whether Vargas is under arrest at a DINE unit or a jail. It must be pointed out that Judge Aquiles Rojas has reprimanded the lawyers for the accusing party and prohibited them from releasing information to the public.

The operation was carried out on 8 and 9 September 1986 by a group of armed civilians. Santiago was under a state of siege, and a curfew was in effect at the time. Murdered along with Carrasco at the time were (Abraham Mustablik), a publicist; Felipe Rivera, an electrician; and Ignacio Vidaurrazaga, a professor.

Extremist Dies in Clash With Carabineros

PY1312232490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Report by Sergio Torres from Talca]

[Text] One extremist died and a Carabinero was wounded in a clash that took place in Molina this morning during a Carabineros operation.

The extremist barricaded himself on the second floor of a building and shot at the police forces. When he saw that he was surrounded, the extremist set fire to the house to destroy evidence that could implicate other people in the extremist group. The fire spread to two neighboring houses. The extremist then committed suicide by shooting himself.

Personnel from the Carabineros Special Action Patrol [Patrulla de Accion Especial], PAE, who came to Molina from Talca to carry out this task, and officials from the Carabineros Intelligence Directorate participated in the operation.

It has been leaked that two men have reportedly been detained. It has not been ruled out that these men could have been involved in the attack and homicide perpetrated on 9 December at the O'Higgins Museum in Talca.

New FACh Operations Director Installed

PY1212192590 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Summary] During a private ceremony at the Chilean Air Force [FACh] headquarters, FACh Brigadier General Jaime Estay was installed as the new FACh operations director. He replaces FACh General Jorge Iturriaga who has been assigned to the FACh Logistic Command.

Police Director Discusses Reorganization, Finances

PY1312220090 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Investigative Police Director General Horacio Toro has reported that the promotion board will conclude its deliberations tomorrow. He also said he believes that about 30 officers will be discharged for violating regulations. Gen. Toro made these statements during the graduation ceremony for 57 new officers at the Arturo Alessandri Palma Investigative Police School.

Toro also reported that the current Investigative Police commanders have been confirmed in their posts. Once the promotion process is over, he said, Investigative Police units will be restructured—beginning with units stationed in the north—to fully prepare for drug trafficking activities that are extending out of Bolivia and Peru.

Toro was installed as director general on 12 March to replace General Fernando Paredes Diaz, who retired. Since he took command, Toro's efforts to eliminate corruption from his force have been well known.

As for his personnel and equipment, Gen. Toro said he learned from the Finance Ministry that the force's annual budget will receive a 25-percent supplement. He noted that President Patricio Aylwin has authorized a $12-million foreign credit for his units, which will allow him to buy updated technological communications equipment, vehicles, and technical gear suitable for police work.

Colombia

FARC Leader Reportedly Calls For Peace Talks

PA1312203690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1717 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Bogota, 13 Dec (DPA)—It was reported today that Manuel Marulanda Velez, top commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group, has asked President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo to end the military operations against the movement. The operations have resulted in the destruction of the main rebel camps.

In an interview over a television newscast, the veteran guerrilla leader pointed out that he does not feel "cornered," but believes that the president must "suspend the operations and recall the troops to garrison and hold talks to find a solution to the armed conflict."

The military actions against FARC, the fiercest since the group's creation in the 1950's, began on 9 December when troops of the Army's 7th Brigade, supported by Air Force helicopter gunships, attacked an extensive area controlled by FARC in Meta Department, 160 km south of Bogota.

The main FARC camp, "Casa Verde," near La Uribe, and three other bases built by the rebels, were destroyed and occupied by Army troops.

Marulanda Velez, who is believed to be the "world's oldest guerrilla," admitted that the Army destroyed the FARC camps, but added that his men went deep into the jungle, where the Army's operations become more difficult to implement.

Official spokesmen claim that 30 guerrillas have been killed since 9 December, although the news media today reported that the soldiers have found 37 bodies on the battlefield.

Army Commander General Manuel Murillo Gonzalez has said that these actions were taken to "liberate" an extensive region of the country that for more than 25 years have been under the control of the FARC, the country's largest and oldest armed rebel group.

It is estimated that about 15 military men, including four Air Force members whose helicopter was downed by the rebels, were killed in combat.

The Gaviria government pointed out days ago that the attack on the FARC does not mean that the doors to a dialogue are closed, but clarified that another round of talks between the two parties would take place only if the insurgents prove "with actions" their commitment to peace.

The Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB), composed of the FARC, the National Liberation Army (ELN), and a dissident group of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL), which continue to stage attacks in Colombia, has pointed out over the past few years that it would accept peace talks only if the government agrees to allow international observers to oversee the process and a "commission of notables" to draft a possible agenda for the talks.

Weeks after assuming the presidency in August, Gaviria said that his government was willing to accept the CGSB's request, but the rebel groups stepped up their combat actions days later.

The chief executive is currently involved in a peace process with a majority group of the EPL, the Quintin Lame Indian movement, and the Revolutionary Workers Party.

More Than 60 Casualties Reported

PA1412000290 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] This is a report filed by our special envoy Carlos Perdomo from La Uribe, Meta Department: At least 60 guerrillas and military personnel have been killed since the beginning of the "Democracy Three" Operation that the National Army launched to restore law and order in

La Uribe, formerly the headquarters of the so-called Secretariat of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] Central Staff.

General Luis Humberto Correa Castaneda, commander of the 7th Brigade, told our station that the bodies of at least 37 members of the FARC security forces have been found. This figure could increase any time because of the ferocity of the armed clashes.

Generals Luis Eduardo Roca Maichel and Manuel Alberto Murillo Gonzalez, commanders of the Military Forces and the Army, respectively, decorated the various commanders in the 7th Brigade and the Air Force who participated in the operations in La Uribe. The ceremony took place at the facilities that had served as the FARC's parade ground for the past 27 years.

Four national flags were hoisted in different areas of La Uribe, from where the FARC leaders fled to hide in the Huila and La Macarena mountain range.

The FARC has killed 12 Army members. Also, 11 Air Force members were killed when two helicopters crashed in Meseta and Melgar, Tolima Department.

FARC Claims Responsibility for Police Slayings

PA1312185290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1735 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Through telephone calls made to various media, the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] has claimed credit for the attack against a police convoy in which seven policemen were killed. Four policemen were also wounded in the attack that took place last night west of Medellin.

Following a wave of criminal attacks that began earlier this year, there had not been any attacks against policemen in the last five months in the capital of Antioquia. Over 300 policemen were killed at that time.

The bodies of the murdered policemen will be sent today to their hometowns in Ibague, Quibdo, and Buenaventura.

'Extraditable' Gustavo Garzon Turns Himself In

PA1312193490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1744 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Another of the Extraditables, Gustavo Garzon, has turned himself over to the authorities. He is the sixth member of the drug cartels to accept the benefits of Decree 2047.

Journalist Freed; Release of Others Expected

PA1412012090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Attention: We have some last-minute news. Our colleague Azucena Lievano, who is the "Cripton" newscast editor, has just been released. Our reporter gives us the full information.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Just a few minutes ago, "Cripton" newscast journalist Azucena Lievano arrived in a taxi at the offices of the EL COLOMBIANO newspaper. She was released by the Extraditables after they gave her the same message they had given to the other kidnapped journalists who were released. We must not forget that six journalists still remain in the hands of the Extraditables. According to Azucena Lievano, the remaining journalists will be with their families this weekend. Initially, Azucena was nervous and unhappy, but at the end she said a few words to the media. This is what she said:

[Second reporter] Azucena, how are you?

[Lievano] I am well, thank you.

[Reporter] Did they treat you well? Did they give you any message?

[Lievano] The message is that we are to expect my colleagues soon.

[Reporter] Before Christmas?

[Lievano] No, this weekend.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Election Results Reported; M-19 Strong at Polls

PA1412005990 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Colombia now has a Constituent Assembly to draw up a new constitution. Despite absenteeism, 3.5 million citizens elected the 70 persons who will draw up a new magna carta for 21st-century Colombia. As in all elections, there are winners and losers, and particularly on this occasion there were many political surprises and new developments. Here is Ariana La Rota with an extensive analysis of yesterday's and today's events:

[Begin La Rota recording] According to the election results, as of today there are three equally strong political forces in Colombia, each with a different ideology. The M-19 [19 April Movement Democratic Alliance]—unquestionably the big winner in these elections—obtained 27 percent of the votes, winning 19 seats in the Constituent Assembly. This organization, which rejoined civilian life less than a year ago, has seen a significant rise in the number of its sympathizers. During March elections it obtained 100,000 votes; in May elections, 750,000 votes; and now, according to the latest official results, 950,000 votes. The M-19's only defeat

was at the public opinion polls, which gave it 40 percent of the votes, while it in reality only obtained 27 percent. The M-19 party of Antonio Navarro, however, was the only party to increase the number of its voters. In all other cases, the number of voters decreased significantly.

This is certainly the case of the Liberal Party. Although all its regional votes added together will give the Liberal Party 24 representatives in the Assembly, it only obtained 920,000 votes. The high abstention rate certainly affected the Liberal Party, whose voters have undoubtedly demonstrated their indifference toward the candidates. This has been clearly established by the fact that although 61 percent of the senators and 56 percent of the representatives are Liberals, a mere 25 percent of the Constituent Assembly members will belong to that party. These results affect the government itself, as it will not have a majority in the Assembly. The government will be forced to make pacts with other sectors, such as Antonio Navarro, Alvaro Gomez, and even Misael Pastrana, to gain support for the constitutional reforms.

The conservatives make up the third political force. As a group, they will have 20 seats in the Assembly. Individually, however, they did not fare so well. For example, Alvaro Gomez [National Salvation Movement] obtained 1.4 million votes in May as opposed to 555,000 votes in these elections. For Pastrana, defeat is even more obvious. With barely 226,000 votes, his group will only have five seats at the Assembly.

Juan Gomez Martinez, the Social Conservative Party candidate, is the top winner. He is the only regional candidate to actually surpass Antonio Navarro, and with 92,000 votes his party has a right to two seats in the Assembly. Because the results of each faction were less than expected, the conservatives as a group will control one-third of the Assembly.

The top three political forces will have at least 60 Constituent Assembly representatives. The 10 seats left will be for the Indian, the Evangelist, and other such movements which call themselves independent. Nevertheless, these movements, when it comes time to vote at the Assembly, will be won over by one of the three main political forces. [end recording]

Ecuador

Wave of Strikes Renders Country 'Semiparalyzed'

PA1312174690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1634 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Quito, 13 Dec (DPA)—Trade unions and even entire provinces, which began a wave of strikes and stoppages in the past few days, remain semiparalyzed in Ecuador today, while the government of President Rodrigo Borja has issued a strong appeal "not to disrupt order or promote chaos."

The situation could seriously worsen in the next few days if the Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie), which is presently meeting in Guayaquil, calls for a new uprising by the 2.2 million Ecuadoran Indians, as Conaie spokesman Luis Macas warned yesterday.

The strikes by unions include interns from public hospitals and workers of the state petroleum industry, who are demanding wage increases the government believes are excessive. The government is afraid that sudden wage increases of up to 100 percent, as the workers are demanding, could set off higher inflation, which is estimated to close the year at 52 percent.

Meanwhile, various political divisions in Ecuador, ranging from small districts to the most important provinces, have threatened to stage strikes, with the closing of roads and street disturbances, to demand that the government meet their demands for projects and allocations.

"It is evident and the entire country knows that the government is being asked for much more than it can provide," Government Minister Cesar Verduga said today when he commented on Ecuador's strife-torn situation. The demands have dramatically increased since August when the Persian Gulf crisis significantly increased the government's revenue because of the petroleum exports. Petroleum provides 60 percent of the country's foreign exchange revenue.

Paraguay

Armed Forces Voice Support for Rodriguez

PY1212231990

[Editorial Report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish on 6 Dec 90 on page 12 carries a 300-word report on the graduation ceremony of officers at the Navy Training Institutes Center [Comando de Institutos Navales de Ensenanza de la Armada—CINAE] on 5 December that was presided over by President Andres Rodriguez.

In a speech, CINAE Commander Navy Captain Manuel Royg Benitez told President Rodriguez that his subordinates, through their respective commanders, "support your government and are mentally, morally, and physically prepared to help you in your purpose of fully democratizing the country harmoniously and with social peace." He also noted that the naval officers should be aware of some of the challenges that the government's goals represent, such as the great waterway projects that "may imply the participation of the Navy."

On the same page, another 300-word article gives details of the graduation ceremony of officers of the Army Logistic Command Agricultural and Livestock Service which was also presided over by President Andres Rodriguez.

In his speech Colonel Mauricio Diaz Delmas, director of this service, said: "We must all make a joint effort to overcome the economic, political, and social difficulties. It will be not be easy, however, to solve the old and unsurmountable problems of the past." He then added: "Politicians must give up their greedy, sectarian, and

selfish attitude and uphold the great cause for which our soldiers died on the night of 2-3 February [night of coup that ousted Stroessner]." Finally Col. Diaz Delmas said: "As our commander in chief says, it is a pity we Paraguayans have not become reconciled, but we are certain, Mr. President, that the blood of Ramos Alfaro and the others [soldiers who died in coup] was not shed in vain and that the day of which you dream will soon come true in Paraguay."

Retirements, Assignments in Armed Forces Reported

PY1212232090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Brigade General Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena has been designated to serve as acting commander of the Military Training Institutes Command (CIME), replacing Division General Abrahan Abed, who will retire. The commander of the 3d Cavalry Division headquartered in Curuguaty, Brigadier General Eduardo Allende, has been relieved from his post and replaced by Brigadier General Oscar Rodrigo Diaz Delmas.

Brigadier General Francisco Aristides Talavera Mosqueda has been named deputy chief of the General Staff and commander of Army Headquarters, replacing Brig. Gen. Oscar Rodrigo Diaz Delmas. Colonel Dario Antonio Franco Flores has been named acting chief of staff at the CIME, replacing Brigadier General Hugo Adolfo Escobar Anzoategui, who will retire at the end of the month.

Colonel Ramon Rosa Rodriguez Maldonado has been designated acting chief of the 3d Corps Staff, replacing Brigadier General Crispiniano Lopez Gimenez, who will also retire on 1 January 1991.

Colonel Jose Tomas Centurion has been designated acting commander of the Communications Department, replacing Brigadier General Luis Valiente Flor, who will also retire.

Colonel Corsino Allende Serviano has been designated acting commander of the Artillery Department, replacing Brig. Gen. Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena.

Colonel Federico Magno Candia Flores has been designated chief of the 1st Department of the Armed Forces Staff, replacing Navy Captain Pedro Rivas Jara.

Colonel Oscar Arcadio Saucedo Rojas has been designated acting commander of the Command School and General Staff, replacing Brig. Gen. Francisco Aristides Talavera Mosqueda.

Colonel Eligio Ramon Torres has been named commander of the 4th Infantry Regiment [RI4] "Curupayty," replacing Colonel Antonio Leite Martinez.

Colonel Blas Ramon Ortiz has been designated chief of the 7th Department of the Armed Forces Staff, replacing Col. Ramon Rosa Rodriguez Maldonado.

Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Ramon Diaz Cano has been designated commander of the Cadets Corps at the "Mariscal Francisco Solano Lopez" Military College, replacing Col. Corsino Allende Serviano.

The new aides-de-camp to the president of the Republic are: Frigate Captain Miguel Angel Candia Fleitas (Navy) and Lieutenant Colonel Maximo Rogelio Sanabria Maldonado (Air Force).

Candia Fleitas replaced Captain Antonio Celso Quinonez Franco, who will be reassigned to the Navy, and Sanabria Maldonado replaced Colonel Fernando Ugarte Ramirez.

Colonel Juan Evaristo Gonzalez Maldonado was appointed assistant general to the Armed Forces commander, replacing Colonel Dario Antonio Franco Flores.

Brigadier General Eduardo Allende was appointed commander of the National War College, replacing Brigadier General Carlos Egisto Maggi, who is retiring.

The following colonels have been promoted to brigadier general: Dario Antonio Franco Flores, Ramon Rodriguez, Ivan Antonio Centurion Espinola, Evelio Fabio Benitez Santa Cruz, Jose Tomas Centurion, and Corsino Allende Serviano.

It should be reiterated that Division Generals Abrahan Abed (CIME commander) and Otello Carpinelli Yegros—who is under military inquest after being dismissed from the command of the 3d Corps—are being retired. The following brigadier generals are also retiring: Luis Valiente Flor, Dario Gonzalez Duarte, Carlos Egisto Maggi, Hugo Adolfo Escobar Anzoategui, and Crispiniano Lopez Gimenez.

Peru

Television Crew Reports on Mobil Camp Attack

PY1412134890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0757 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Lima, 14 Dec (EFE)—A television station reported today that the oil prospecting camp of the U.S. Mobil Oil company, which was destroyed in the Peruvian jungle four days ago, was attacked by the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla group. During the attack five people were murdered.

A Peruvian TV America television station crew has visited the place, some 560 km northwest of Lima, and reported that the military forces in that coca region of the valley of the Huallaga River had not yet arrived at the site of the camp. The television crew contradicted the first official report that said that the Guevarist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrilla group perpetrated the attack.

The television crew stated that a Shining Path column had the oil camp and neighboring villages under its

control for 10 days. Two shop owners who just happened to be there, a prostitute, and two local inhabitants were murdered.

According to the television station, the Shining Path column used two of the camp's helicopters that are rented from a company linked to the Armed Forces to transport the guerrillas. They also used the helicopters to bomb the installations on 10 December.

On 13 December, four days after the attack, the security forces posted to the zone were still waiting for two helicopters as reinforcement, and, according to the TV America report, have not sent troops by land because it is believed that the roads may be mined.

Witnesses have confirmed that no authority has visited the place since the incident, and they reported that most of the people of the zone have left out of fear.

As soon as he heard of the incident, President Alberto Fujimori promised military protection for the oil camps.

Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego said: "We will offer them all of our experience in the antisubversive fight and the necessary amount of men."

Mines and Energy Minister Fernando Sanchez Albavera, who is a socialist, has stressed that Mobil Oil will continue its operations in Peru.

Sanchez stated that the attack against the camp, on the banks of the Biabo River, a tributary of the Huallaga River, caused between $2 and $3 million in material damage. The first reports of the attack were given on 12 December by the Peruvian Senate, which blamed the MRTA.

The prospecting area that has been granted to Mobil Oil is in one of the most conflictive areas of Peru, the valley of the Huallaga River, a fertile slope of the Andes Mountains in which there are no less than 200,000 hectares of coca plantations, more than 60 percent of the plantations in the world. Cocaine is produced from the coca leaf.

For the past two years, the gangs of drug traffickers that proliferate in that region and the two guerrilla groups have been engaged in a power struggle.

Police Capture 150 Shining Path Terrorists

PY1312134490 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 11

[Text] Huaraz, 4 Dec—National Police General Hector John Caro has reported that combined forces of the National Police have captured 150 Shining Path terrorists. Eight of them have been accused of the murder of Pedro Macedo Figueroa, director of the Higher Pedagogic Institute.

In a news conference in his office, Caro stated that the terrorists are being held in the San Andres Prison, "where they are being thoroughly interrogated by members of the Technical Police."

Those suspected of having murdered Macedo Figueroa have been identified as: Pedro Dominguez Macedonio, Eusebio Ramirez Jamanca, Pedro Pajuelo Gonzalez, Jacinto Leon Aranda, Pedro Loli Aranda, Dionisio Beltran Tahua, Fulgencio Figueroa Rojas, and Manuel Mautino Camones.

Caro said: "They were all students at the institute."

He explained that the 150 terrorists are believed to be responsible for 95 percent of the attacks that have occurred during the year in the Huaylas and Conchucos Vallies, where they caused a lot of damage.

Caro said: "The possibility has not been rejected that the arrested terrorists were trained by terrorist cells that operate along the country's northern coast."

Terrorists Kidnap Well-Known Businessman

PY1312132490 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p A 1

[Excerpts] Hory Chlimper Halfin, 70, a well-known businessman in the chemical-pharmaceutical sector, was kidnapped on the morning of 3 December by a group of Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) subversives as he was parking his car in the garage of one of his enterprises in Lince.

After violently capturing him and putting him in another vehicle, the terrorists detonated a device in Halfin's vehicle. The shrapnel from the device wounded a worker.

As they left the garage, which is used only by employees, the terrorists shot at the guards of the Kahan Drug Store, which is located in front of the premises where the kidnapping took place, in the 21st block of Miguel Iglesias Street. One private guard was seriously injured. [passage omitted]

Halfin is president of the board of directors of Farmindustria Laboratories, vice president of the Association of Origin and National Capital Pharmaceutical Industries (ADIFAN), and is also a member of the board of directors of the National Industrial Society.

EFE Wraps Up Recent Terrorist Actions

PY1312121690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1535 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Huancayo, Peru, 12 Dec (EFE)—Authorities reported today that at least eight alleged terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) died in a clash with an Army patrol in the Andean district of Pichanaki, 350 km east of Lima.

A Huancayo Town Hall spokesman stated that the clash occurred on 10 December, when a military squad was patrolling the area after terrorist actions had been carried out over the weekend. These actions resulted in a dozen dead and material damage to public and private property.

The source indicated that the dead terrorists were carrying automatic weapons and were dressed in ranger-[preceding word in English] style clothes, but they were not carrying any type of identification.

The clash took place at what is believed to be an MRTA camp, because about 100 terrorists were there at the time of the attack. When they fled, the terrorists left behind weapons, food, medicines, and plans of neighboring localities that may be potential targets, the source stated.

"The military patrol did not suffer any casualties because the attack was carried out by surprise," the town hall spokesman said.

On 11 December National Police reported that a colonel belonging to the institution was wounded during a terrorist attack as he was about to board his car in downtown Huancayo.

The report adds that the officer, Tobias Torres Acuna, repelled the attack, causing the terrorists to flee.

Police have also reported that on 9 December three members of the Peasant Defense Patrols (civilian militia) of the district of Ulcumayo, 50 km from Huancayo, were murdered by an alleged militant of the Shining Path Maoist group.

Early in the morning, terrorists raided Ulcumayo, and after gathering the population in the main plaza, they shot Jacinto Puris, Hilario Machacuay, and his son Glicerio as a "lesson" and as a warning to leave the Peasant Patrols alone. The Peasant Patrols are the armed civilian units that the Army uses in its fight against subversion.

Shining Path began its armed struggle in 1980, and it has caused some 21,000 deaths and material losses estimated at $20 billion, equivalent to nearly seven years of exports.

Petroperu Discusses Security for Companies

PY1412014490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Jaime Quijandria, president of Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency], has reported that Armed Forces troops will provide security for petroleum fields being exploited by foreign companies to prevent attacks like the one that was carried out against a Mobil Oil subsidiary.

The Petroperu president said the Energy and Mines Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and representatives of U.S. companies are coordinating actions.

The Petroperu president stated categorically that the state must guarantee security conditions for foreign investments as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Correction to Fujimori Supports Army

PY1312133090

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Fujimori Supports Army, Criticizes Legislators" published in the 12 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 41:

Column two, first partial paragraph, only sentence make read: ...speech delivered at Army headquarters to celebrate Army Day.... (correcting location)

Third full paragraph, sentence two make read: ...this requires the responsible conduct and participation of each.... (providing indistinct words)

Fifth full paragraph, only sentence make read: ...be able to build a truly sovereign nation of free people. [new graf] Unfortunately, not everyone... (providing indistinct words)

Last paragraph, only sentence make read: How can one demand self-denial and sacrifice from a man in uniform, how can we ask him to risk his life when, instead of recognizing his efforts, people seek to impose a moral punishment and hinder his career, thus creating obvious discontent in.... (providing indistinct words)

Page 42, column one, first full paragraph make read: ...interests seek to criticize and undermine his sacrifice? Fortunately,.... (providing indistinct words)

Fourth full paragraph, only sentence make read: As is said in military terminology, from my post.... (providing indistinct words)

Sixth full paragraph, only sentence make read: ...republican life and made the ultimate sacrifice: giving their lives to preserve our.... (providing indistinct words)

Seventh full paragraph, only sentence make read: ...an everlasting lesson in citizenship and patriotism. Thank.... (providing indistinct words)

Uruguay

Communist Leader Views President Bush's Visit

PY1312210190 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 4 Dec 90 p 8

[From the "Political Opinion" page: "Our Relations With the United States" by Jaime Perez, secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush is arriving in our country today. On the occasion of his visit, we must evaluate its significance and consequences, the current status of Uruguayan-U.S. relations, and the overall U.S. role in the world.

During Bush's short Latin American tour, we will hear promises, proposals, and speeches. We will also try to tell our side of the story and, above all, to confront words with facts.

It is also true that we will attend the deployment of the huge U.S. security machinery airlifted by large, dark planes that will unload at our airport armored cars, hundreds of agents, ultramodern technological gadgets, a bulletproof booth for Bush to address...Congress, and above all, much distrust and that air of superiority and self-sufficiency that prevails in frivolous chronicles of the visit.

We want to address the substance, the causes, motives, and consequences of the visit.

In our analysis we do not want to move by conditioned reflexes, even though our peoples should have the right to quote that painful phrase that when they hear about a U.S. president's visit, they touch their wounds.

There are many recent wounds. It would take too long to list all of them, but they are there as a tragic negative balance in our relations with the United States.

The wounds are the invasion of Panama, which is still occupied, and that of Grenada; the blockade against Cuba; and the aggression against Nicaragua; just to mention the most recent ones.

The United States is indebted to us not only as Latin Americans, but as Uruguayans because the Uruguayan dictatorship, which tyranically ruled us for a decade, was the direct outcome of a concept, of a strategy, and of an international power: U.S. imperialism.

The dictatorship followed the ideological principles of U.S. imperialism—the national security doctrine—as well as its techniques in the areas of political provocation and torture. U.S. imperialism can also be blamed for the training—or shall we say the evil training—of professional coup plotters.

Thus, we cannot receive a U.S. president as though we had only unfavorable trade relations, or as if we share the same continent or a joint trade project. Unfortunately, we Latin Americans share a history in which our peoples have always been victimized by the northern empire, which ruthlessly implemented a policy of domination.

This will always be the backdrop for any serious, responsible analysis of our relations with the United States. Yet, in this case, we do not want this to be the only reference point. We also want to define the present and the future.

It is precisely this aspect of the Bush visit that we are most concerned about.

The United States is today watching the altogether new, complex world situation, not only the profound socialist crisis in Eastern Europe and the weakening and collapse of the socialist bloc, but also the tough dispute that is taking place today in the world over hegemony and world markets.

Capitalism is insatiable because capitalists are insatiable. Capitalists demand growth, a steady accumulation of wealth, and competition with other capitalists.

This is why the U.S. leaders are facing new problems as a result of the unification of Germany, the European integration by 1992, the vigorous development of Japan and of Southeast Asia, and of the far-reaching U.S. economic-financial crisis.

Within this framework, the United States no longer regards Latin America as a Pan-American reserve for its anti-Soviet goals because the Soviets are no longer the enemy but a territory that should be conquered again economically and commercially following neoliberal guidelines.

The U.S. ultimate objective is, in the first place, to make the Latin American dominant classes join the new Latin American right wing in endorsing a great liberal model, which is primarily based on exports but will make our countries the consumers because Europe, Japan, and the United States are applying policies to protect their domestic market.

Another objective is to have the Latin American countries rally behind the United States to strengthen its position in its global dispute with other centers of power, using the same mechanisms for domination and transfer of resources: the foreign debt and unfair terms of trade.

This is not a courtesy visit. It is not a trip meant as an overseas electoral campaign as other U.S. presidents used to make: This is a political business trip. It is designed to yield good business for the United States and poor deals for Latin America.

This trip seeks to strengthen current neoliberal policies, which are designed to take our wealth away as payment of our debt and to make capitalism even more brutal.

We are also concerned about the fact that the visit coincides with preparations for another military adventure of unpredictable consequences in the Persian Gulf.

For all these reasons, our position is not only that of raising our voice of protest to remind President Bush that our peoples can be invaded or attacked without losing their dignity, but to demand and to renew our commitment for an alternate Latin American proposal.

Latin America has its place in the world: It can compete and win without having to yield to the desires of the empire or of the power centers. This will be our main task.

Guyana

Former Ambassador to U.S. Named Hoyte Adviser

FL1312155590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1250 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 13, CANA—Veteran Guyanese diplomat Dr. Cedric Grant has been temporarily appointed special adviser on foreign affairs to President Desmond Hoyte, the state-owned CHRONICLE reported. Grant, after being recalled from his substantive post as ambassador to the United States, was widely tipped to become Guyana's new foreign minister, succeeding Rashleigh Jackson who resigned in late November.

Hoyte announced he would assume responsibility for foreign affairs after Jackson decided to step down in the wake of his son's arrest on a drugs charge. The case is still before the courts.

The CHRONCILE said Grant would return to his substantive post at the end of the temporary assignment. The newspaper did not say how long the appointment would last.